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1962

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✓ FARM MAGAZINE

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VOL 81

1962



Vol. LXXXI, No. 1

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 1962

THE Country GUIDE

Incorporating *The Nor'West Farmer* and *Farm and Home*

CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

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[Guide photo]

The sale ring at the Toronto public stockyards.

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COVER: Bobby Smith was caught by his Dad's camera while enjoying a popular Canadian winter pastime.—Don Smith photo.

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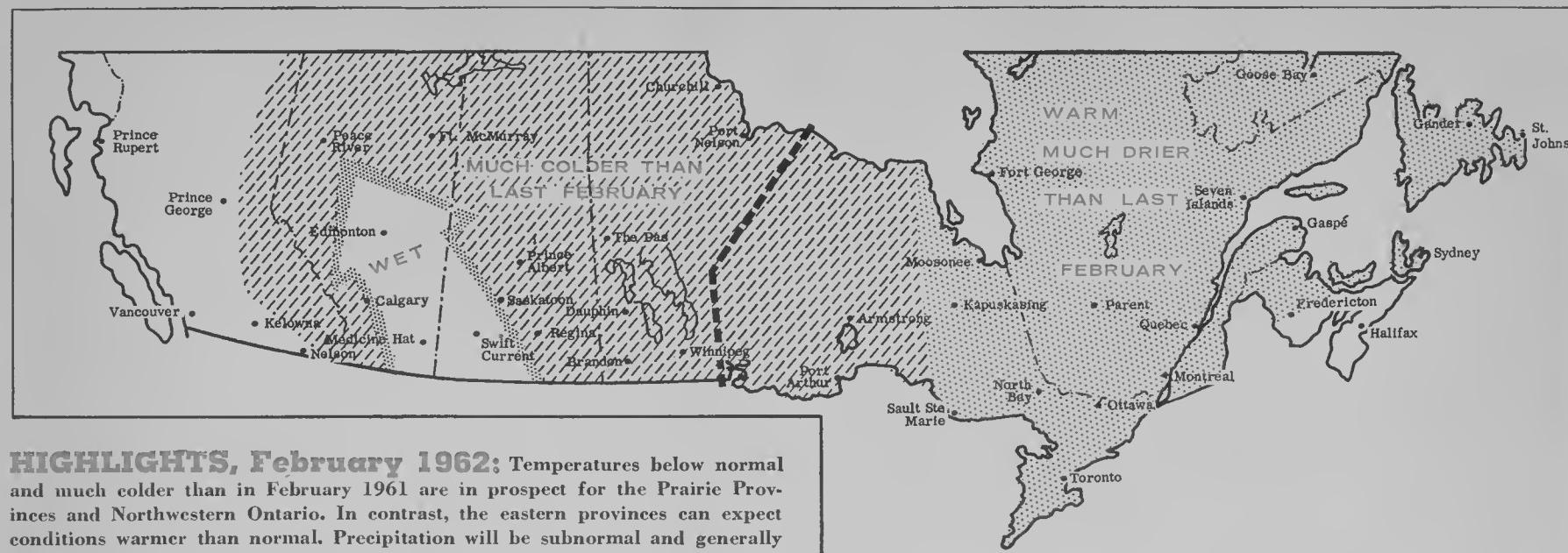
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HIGHLIGHTS, February 1962: Temperatures below normal and much colder than in February 1961 are in prospect for the Prairie Provinces and Northwestern Ontario. In contrast, the eastern provinces can expect conditions warmer than normal. Precipitation will be subnormal and generally light with the exception of southern half of Alberta and southwest Saskatchewan.

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)

Alberta



- 1st week 1-3:** Seasonal temperatures will predominate. A period with snow will begin on the 2nd.

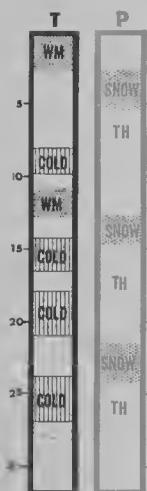
2nd week 4-10: Snow will continue through the 4th and is expected again around the 7th and 8th. Only prominent cold spell is forecast to make an appearance near the 8th and 9th.

3rd week 11-17: Mild weather until the 13th will give way to cold air invasion during the 14th to the 16th. Storminess with important snow will occur around the 13th to the 15th.

4th week 18-24: Expect cold weather most of the week with seasonal temperatures due only about the 22nd and 23rd. Skies generally clear, but blustery with snow on the 21st and 22nd.

5th week 25-28: The cold spell will be broken by chinook beginning on the 28th. Skies clear to partly cloudy with no precipitation.

Saskatchewan



- 1st week 1-3:** Start of the month fair and pleasant, giving way to inclement weather and snow about 3rd.

2nd week 4-10: Stormy conditions with snow will extend into 6th followed by minor threat of snow in south near 8th. Normal February temperatures except during cold intervals around 6th and end of week.

3rd week 11-17: A warming trend will return during the first few days of the week, but will be broken by storminess near the 14th and 15th accompanied by a much colder air mass.

4th week 18-24: Arctic air will continue to predominate through the middle of the week, but it will give way to more seasonal temperatures together with snow by the 22nd.

5th week 25-28: Month will end with new Arctic air mass. Mostly clear conditions with a possible minor threat of snow on 27th.

Manitoba



- 1st week 1-3:** Clear, cold weather is in prospect with some warming expected by the 3rd.

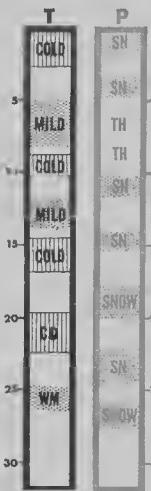
2nd week 4-10: Cloudy and unsettled with occasional snow showers lasting through the 7th. A brief cold interval with mostly clear skies is expected from the 8th to the 10th of the month.

3rd week 11-17: Temperatures will moderate during first few days of week, becoming much colder by 16th. Skies will be threatening on 11th, with heavy snows expected around 14th and 15th.

4th week 18-24: Stormy conditions with snow will begin and end the week—the latter being more severe in southern Manitoba. Between these storms, weather is expected to be mostly clear and cold.

5th week 25-28: After a clear, cold interval on the 25th and 26th, the month will end with continued cold weather and snow.

Ontario



- 1st week 1-3:** Cold in all areas, storminess and snow restricted to Lakes region on 1st and 2nd.

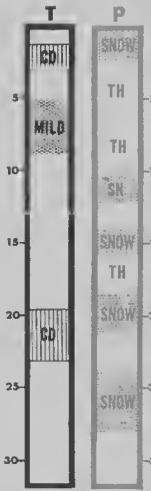
2nd week 4-10: Snow on the 4th followed by threatening weather around the 7th and 9th. Mostly mild through the 9th with a brief clear, cold interval at the end of the week.

3rd week 11-17: Seasonal to mild temperatures through the 14th, turning much colder after the 15th. Chance of brief intervals with snow occurring near the 11th and the 15th.

4th week 18-24: General storminess with snow threats on the 19th and 20th, followed by heavier snow at the end of the week. Look for a 3-day cold spell between these storms.

5th week 25-28: A warming trend on 26th will give way to cooler weather and cloudy skies with light snow on 27th and 28th.

Quebec



- 1st week 1-3:** Generally cold weather will predominate with snow lasting through the 2nd.

2nd week 4-10: A rather pleasant and generally dry week is in prospect with mild temperatures for February, and threatening weather likely to occur only near the 5th and the 9th.

3rd week 11-17: Seasonal temperatures through most of week except in northern Quebec around 13th. Snow is likely in southern regions on 11th and 12th, and in all areas toward end of week.

4th week 18-24: Storminess with snow restricted to the Lake St. John region from 20th to 22nd. Otherwise, expect partly cloudy to clear days with temperatures sub-normal only from 21st to 23rd.

5th week 25-28: Snow is expected in all areas for the four days, with temperatures averaging about normal for February.

Atlantic Provinces



- 1st week 1-3:** Start of month will be generally stormy with unseasonably cold temperatures.

2nd week 4-10: Cloudy and unsettled conditions for several days around middle of week. Generally mild conditions will predominate through 7th, followed by a brief cold spell on 9th and 10th.

3rd week 11-17: Comparatively mild, especially around 15th and 16th. With exception of a stormy period in Newfoundland area from 12th to 14th, precipitation only on a day or two near end of week.

4th week 18-24: Week will begin with snow in most regions lasting through 21st. Seasonal temperatures during this period will give way to noticeably colder weather and clearing skies through 24th.

5th week 25-28: More mild weather will end the month, with some threats of snow in prospect during most of the interval.

1961 Results of Cominco Demonstration Farms Announced

ALBERTA

DUCHESS DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 1

Grossfield Brothers

Four demonstrations were carried out on this irrigated farm. A mixture of wheat, oats, and barley was seeded on third crop stubble land. An application of 150 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills prior to seeding and 50 lbs. per acre of 11-48-0 with the seed increased yield by 18.2 bushels per acre over the unfertilized check strip, resulting in a net profit of \$10.55 more per acre after paying the cost of the fertilizer. This crop was irrigated twice.

A grain mixture was also seeded on sweet clover land plowed down in mid August of 1960. The fertilizer treatment consisted of 70 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-48-0. Yield was increased 15.1 bushels for an extra profit of \$11.40 per acre after deducting fertilizer cost. This crop received one irrigation.

On this same farm a second year stand of alfalfa-timothy was fertilized with 200 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-20-0 in the early spring. After the first cutting, 100 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills was broadcast on half of the field and 80 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Urea broadcast on the other half. It should be noted that because of the extremely hot weather the timothy was unable to compete with the deeper rooted alfalfa so the hay was almost all alfalfa. As a result, there was little difference in yield between the strip receiving only 16-20-0 and that receiving the double treatment. Yield was increased 0.6 tons per acre resulting in a profit of \$4.50 per acre after deducting for the total fertilizer cost. The crop was irrigated once.

Irrigated pasture fertilized in the spring at the rate of 240 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills and 100 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 gave an increased yield of 2.3 tons per acre over the unfertilized crop. Profit due to fertilizer was \$32.60 per acre over the cost of the fertilizer. This pasture was irrigated three times.

AIRDRIE DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 2

James W. Bussey

A stand of Climax timothy was fertilized in the Spring with 150 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills and 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0. The fertilizer application increased the hay yield 1.04 tons per acre resulting in an increased profit of \$12.40 per acre after deducting the cost of the fertilizer.

Herta barley seeded on stubble in early June gave an increased return of \$8.85 per acre after paying for a broadcast application of 150 lbs. of Elephant Brand Nitraprills followed by 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0; applied with the seed. In this demonstration the yield was raised from 26.7 bushels to 43.3 bushels per acre—an increase of 16.6 bushels.

Selkirk wheat seeded on summerfallow and fertilized with 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 yielded 37.7 bushels compared to 26.5 bushels per acre when unfertilized. The extra 11.2 bushels gave a profit of \$12.60 per acre after deducting the \$2.50 cost for fertilizer.

BENALTO DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 3

Lloyd McNeil

On this farm the yield from a mixed hay stand was raised from 0.22 tons where no fertilizer was used to 1.23 tons per acre by the application of 200 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-20-0. Extra profit after deducting the cost of the fertilizer was \$12.70 per

Fifteen Prairie farmers worked closely with Cominco District Supervisors in carrying out field scale demonstration work with Elephant Brand Fertilizers. The yield and profit results from the 15 farms are reported below. In terms of local prices it is interesting to note that the average increase in net profit, after deducting the cost of fertilizer, amounted to \$7.83 per acre, a good return in spite of heat and drought in many areas.

The results of this demonstration work, using recommended application rates on wheat, barley, oats, mixed grain and grassland are summarized on this page.

acre. When only 80 lbs. of Elephant Brand Ammonium Sulphate was applied to part of this field, a net profit of \$4.40 per acre was realized.

Barley grown on summerfallow benefited from an application of 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0. The \$2.50 per acre spent on fertilizer returned grain worth \$5.70, an extra profit of \$3.20 per acre. Yield increase was much greater when barley on stubble was given a broadcast application of 100 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills and 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 applied with the seed. The \$6.25 invested in fertilizer returned an increased yield of 30.7 bushels resulting in a net profit of \$21.35 per acre. A part of the field receiving only 80 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-20-0 gave a net profit of \$15.00.

GIBBONS DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 4

Don Potter

A seeding of barley on summerfallow that was fertilized with 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 returned \$7.15 more profit per acre than did the unfertilized check. The \$2.60 spent for the fertilizer application increased the yield from 68.8 to 80.3 bushels per acre.

Barley grown as a fifth crop on stubble yielded 70 bushels per acre when fertilized with 80 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-20-0. The 12.6 bushels per acre increase with Elephant Brand returned an extra profit of \$7.60 after paying for the fertilizer.

Barley grown on fourth crop stubble broadcast with 100 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills followed by 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 applied with the seed gave an increase of 24.3 bushels per acre (from 46.4 to 70.7 bushels per acre). The increased yield gave an extra profit of \$14.15 per acre after paying for the fertilizer.

A hay mixture seeded the previous year was fertilized in the spring with 300 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 16-20-0 before it was turned into pasture in June. Sampling indicated an increased yield of 0.70 tons per acre, over the check. After deducting the cost of fertilizer the increased yield of this first cut gave an increased profit of \$2.60 per acre.

MAYERTHORPE DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 5

Howard L. Sharpe

An application of 150 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand Nitraprills to a brome-alfalfa mixture increased the yield by 0.8 tons. Valuing the increase at \$16.00, the extra profit after subtracting the \$6.00 fertilizer cost was \$10.00.

An extra profit of \$6.40 resulted when a grain mixture seeded on stubble land was fertilized with 140 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 27-14-0. 64.6 bushels were harvested from each fertilized acre compared to 50.5 bushels per acre from the check—14.1 bushel increase despite hail damage to the crop on July 7th.

DILKE DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 10

Douglas Laing

A profit of \$0.85 per acre occurred from fertilizing wheat on this farm. Yield was increased from 18.9 to 21.4 bushels per acre. Drought conditions were again a factor.

ASQUITH DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 11

Everett Young

One dollar and eighty-two cents spent on Elephant Brand 11-48-0 at a rate of 35 lbs. per acre returned a net profit of \$4.90 after paying for the fertilizer. Yield of wheat on fallow was increased from 23.5 to 28.3 bushels per acre. The 4.8 bushel increase was valued at \$6.72.

MANITOBA

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 12

Lloyd Hyde

A 2nd year grass-alfalfa stand fertilized with 200 lbs. of Elephant Brand 16-20-0 yielded 0.74 tons per acre, an increase of 0.11 tons over the check. Valuing the increase at \$2.80, a loss of \$3.20 occurred after paying for the fertilizer. The loss can be attributed to the fact that this area received only 2 inches of rain during the growing season.

Second generation Registered Selkirk wheat on summerfallow yielded 19.2 bushels without fertilizer and 27.5 bushels per acre when Elephant Brand 11-48-0 was applied at 60 lbs. per acre. Deducting the \$3.24 cost of the fertilizer from the increased crop value of \$12.45, left a net profit of \$9.21 per acre.

ELM CREEK DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 13

Monson Brothers

Despite the driest season in the history of this area, wheat on summerfallow fertilized with Elephant Brand 11-48-0 at a rate of 45 lbs. per acre exceeded the check yield by 6.7 bushels. Fertilizer raised the yield from 17.0 to 23.7 bushels per acre. Valuing the extra grain at \$10.05 and figuring fertilizer cost at \$2.45—a net profit of \$7.60 resulted.

MARGARET DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 14

Archie and Ross McMillan

Registered Pembina wheat seeded on summerfallow was fertilized with Elephant Brand 11-48-0 at the rate of 40 lbs. per acre. The fertilized wheat yielded 33.4 bushels as compared to 26.9 bushels per acre, without fertilizer. Valuing the increased yield at \$16.25 resulted in a net profit of \$14.10 per acre after deducting the \$2.15 for fertilizer.

A loss of \$0.50 per acre occurred when barley seeded on stubble land was fertilized with 75 lbs. of Elephant Brand 27-14-0. Even though yield was increased 3.8 bushels per acre due to fertilizer this was not sufficient to pay the \$3.55 fertilizer cost. Intense heat and less than 2 inches of rain during the growing season were contributing factors.

SWAN RIVER DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 15

Dave Lumax

An application of 50 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 11-48-0 to summerfallow wheat raised the yield from 18.9 to 23.7 bushels per acre giving an increased profit of \$4.10 per acre after paying for the fertilizer.

An application of 80 lbs. per acre of Elephant Brand 23-23-0 to second crop barley raised the yield from 18.0 to 23.6 bushels per acre giving an increased profit of \$2.00 per acre after paying for the fertilizer.

KINISTINO DEMONSTRATION FARM No. 9

R. Craig Woods

Yield results at this location were disappointing due to hot dry weather. Only 2.1 inches of rain fell between May 7th and July 31st. While yield of barley on stubble was increased from 20.4 to 22.5 bushels per acre, this was insufficient to cover the \$3.45 cost of Elephant Brand 27-14-0 at 75 lbs. per acre. A loss of \$1.55 per acre occurred.

Editorial

Report Urges Adjustment to Change

CANADA has been presented with a blueprint from which it can develop a sounder and more prosperous agriculture. Such a blueprint, imperfect and incomplete though it may be, has been supplied by the Agricultural Marketing Enquiry Committee of Ontario. Established by the Ontario Government, this 5-man study group, working with a secretariat and a research staff over a 2-year period, has analyzed agricultural trends, and diagnosed and prescribed for persistent problems confronting the industry. Its investigation, while directed specifically at Ontario agricultural problems, has a much broader application. Many of its findings and recommendations might well serve as a basis for policy development in other provinces, and at the national level as well.

Since the Committee's report contains innumerable findings and more than sixty recommendations of a specific nature, comments here must of necessity be confined to a limited number of observations. We trust, however, that these observations, together with the summary of the report commencing on page 17 of this issue, will provide our readers with some grasp of the key points in this document.

What impressed us about the Committee's report? We are in agreement with the central finding and, indeed, the theme of the whole report. It is simply this: ". . . the underlying problem common to almost all farm problems is INSECURITY, and . . . the basic solution to almost all major farm problems is ADJUSTMENT." The Committee saw the situation in these terms: "Continuing economic change and increasing research mean that the technological revolution in farming has by no means run its course. Thousands of Ontario farmers are being rendered obsolete and surplus every year. Farmers who were doing well a few years ago, but who have failed to adjust their methods since, are in trouble today, and farmers who are doing well today will be in trouble in a few years from now if they fail to adjust in the meantime. The problem is how to help farmers to adjust and how to help out farmers who fail to adjust."

Practical Proposals

The Committee made many proposals as to how such help can be provided. For example, it urged the Ontario Government to prepare and enact an Agricultural (Production and Marketing) Adjustment Act so that the organization and emphasis of the work of the Department of Agriculture would be more in keeping with the needs of a rapidly changing agricultural industry. It recommended the Department of Agriculture place increasing stress in its production research, extension and information work upon farm business management as a major solution for low incomes of those people remaining in farming. It called for a greatly expanded agricultural marketing research program, without reducing production research. It suggested that agricultural representatives of the Department function as farm management adjustment advisors for commercial farms, and as rural development adjustors for submarginal farms.

Rural development, the Committee stated, is a step in the right direction. It recommended the Ontario Government's full participation in a joint federal-provincial-municipal program of rural development. It suggested this be provided for in the proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act, and that a branch of the Depart-

ment of Agriculture be established to administer this phase of the adjustment program. The Committee concluded that the rural poor in Ontario, both farm and non-farm, have much to gain from active participation by Ontario in ARDA.

We were also impressed with two proposals on the marketing side. Both of these have wide application and should be of particular interest throughout Canada as a whole.

First, the Committee pointed out that in the long run, consumer tastes change and nutritional sources shift. Unless agriculture takes this into account, in planning where to push expansion and where not to, it will become increasingly maladjusted. The task is to produce the kind, quantity and quality of food commodities the consumer wants. To this end, the Committee recommended that producer and marketing groups jointly sponsor research in consumer preferences for their products, and that grade standards be reappraised and revised as necessary to keep them up to date with these preferences.

A second major Committee proposal on the marketing side was to take steps to reduce the wasteful and costly nature of recurring hog and cattle cycles. What is required, the Committee believed, is an improved system of price forecasting, or even forward pricing, which could serve as a basis for producer and processor planning and government policy. It recommended that the various interest groups involved in producing and marketing hogs and beef cattle should pool their knowledge and set up a statistical service providing outlook estimates on supplies and prices.

Farmers Should Step In

Also in the marketing field, the Committee became convinced that the right approach to reducing marketing uncertainty and improving the farmers' income position involved these three lines of activity: (1) Farmers taking a much more active part in processing and distributing their products; (2) farmers working in greater unity among themselves; and (3) farmers working in closer liaison with the rest of the industry.

In connection with the first activity, the Committee recommended that co-operative marketing be encouraged; that the new Co-operative Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture promote and strengthen the co-operative movement in the province; and, that co-operatives set the pace in contracting.

The second activity, the Committee felt, could be brought about by uniting the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Farmers Union into a single general farm organization with a clear and responsible voice. A majority of the Committee members went further and recommended that a maximum period of 3 years be set for the merging of the two organizations, at the end of which period local marketing board powers be transferred from existing commodity organizations to the single general farm organization by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board. The general farm organization would in turn delegate these producer board powers to its appropriate commodity subcommittees.

Under the Committee's plan the third activity would be carried out by establishing, under legislation, vertical commodity marketing associations comprised of representatives of all groups involved in marketing a product, from

producer co-operatives and marketing boards through to consumers. The main purpose of such associations would be to make sure that their joint efforts were being directed toward meeting the quantity and quality requirements of consumers. In support of this proposal, the Committee pointed out that revolutionary changes in retailing and technology demand greater co-ordination between agricultural production and marketing. Rather than producer and other marketing groups organizing themselves horizontally, and facing one another in what the Committee describes as "a stultifying climate of conflict," they should work together to co-ordinate the production and marketing functions for common gains.

Some Reservations

It is these two latter recommendations, desirable though they may be in theory, which seem to us to be unrealistic in practice.

In the case of the proposed farm organization merger and the transfer of producer marketing board powers to the resulting body, it is questionable whether it would be desirable or legal. Would such actions lead to greater unity? We doubt it. Far better for such developments to come about on the initiative of the organizations themselves. Otherwise, we believe what is intended as a step to unity, would only lead to even greater disunity. We also doubt the practicability of the proposed vertical commodity marketing associations, on the grounds that neither producers or processors have adjusted their thinking to the point where they are yet ready to launch into such a type of joint activity, even under the watchful eye of a government board with powers to arbitrate disputes when necessary.

We have another reservation. We are disturbed by the position taken by the Committee on supply control. They rightly pointed out that supply control would not work on a provincial basis, except for one or two farm products grown almost exclusively in Ontario. They expressed doubt as to whether supply control would work on a national basis to the advantage of Ontario farmers. Therefore, a key recommendation of the Committee is for Ontario agricultural production to increase and capture a larger share of Ontario's expanding market. Presumably Ontario farmers would out-compete farmers in other provinces. This may be a sound recommendation for Ontario, but we doubt it. If producers in other provinces adopted the same advice, would not production increase substantially everywhere and thus lower prices throughout the nation? How could this lead to increased farm incomes in Ontario? The Committee can hardly skirt the issue of supply control quite so easily. We admit it is a means of raising incomes that is fraught with many difficulties, but it is deserving of more careful attention than the Enquiry Committee seemed prepared to give it.

In Conclusion

Obviously, the Enquiry Committee has produced, on the whole, a challenging and thought-provoking report. It saw the winds of change continuing to blow over the agricultural industry. Rather than urging protection for farmers from these winds, it advocated that everything that reasonably can be done should be done to help them adjust to the changes that seem imminent. In fact, the recommendations called for the kind of long-term planning for agriculture that has been sadly lacking in Canada until now. As we mentioned at the outset, many of the findings and recommendations are worthy of consideration in other provinces and by the Federal Government. Our concluding hope is that farmers and farm organizations recognize the challenge of adjustment that is so clearly pinpointed in the report, and avoid unprofitable wrangling among themselves or with others about some of the more controversial recommendations that it contains.

GUIDE POSTS

UP-TO-DATE
FARM MARKET
FORECASTS

WHEAT CROP in Australia and the Argentine is now being harvested and expected to be about average. With Australian supplies well below those of a year ago, this should further improve demand for North American product.

FORAGE CROP SEED could be higher priced this spring. While supplies should be adequate to meet your needs, Canadian production of many seeds in 1961 was reduced by drought and poor harvesting weather.

ELEVATOR SPACE, so long at a premium, will be plentiful at least until the new crop comes to market. Under these conditions, it would seem a sensible precaution to withhold some of your grain sales until 1962 prospects become more clear.

SELLING CANADIAN RAPESEED on world markets at our ambitious prices remains a real problem. You can expect dealers and contractors to be much more cautious about prices in their forward contracts this spring.

MARKETING CHARGES between farm and consumer will likely edge up slightly again this year, giving the farmer a still smaller share of the consumer's food dollar -- a continuation of the long-term trend.

POTATO PRICES could show strength between now and summer. U.S. government is making strenuous efforts to divert stocks to non-food uses, and a reduction in their supplies should tone up the market.

GRAIN TRADE has switched from a buyer's to a seller's market in just one season. Dry conditions of the Prairies last fall have added a note of urgency to the market.

KEEP YOUR HOG GRADING CERTIFICATES for price support purposes in case prices break, although returns are expected to stay above floor levels for most of the year. A major factor determining prices will turn on whether U.S. production rises substantially due to their very favorable feeding returns.

RYE MARKETS remain erratic with a good deal of speculation in evidence in both Canada and the U.S. However, exports are running well ahead of 1960-61 and prices should remain generally firm.

HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS, such as obtained from soybeans and other vegetable oils, are meeting a good demand from the livestock industry in North America and Western Europe.

WORLD FEED GRAIN PRICES should rise by summer as heavy U.S. government-owned corn sales slacken off. The movement of government-held stocks has been heavy this season and is the main reason for relatively low corn prices.



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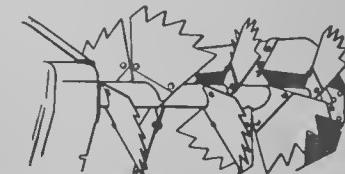
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What's Happening

MARKETING TO FOREFRONT IN ONTARIO REORGANIZATION

Ontario's Department of Agriculture has been reorganized to keep in step with the needs of the times. In making the announcement to the Ontario Legislature in mid-December, Agriculture Minister Wm. A. Stewart said that reorganization "has been brought about to place the greatest possible emphasis on marketing . . ."

To this end Mr. Stewart said he had instructed the new Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Everett M. Biggs, whose appointment was also announced at the same time, to maintain the utmost responsibility for the administration of marketing policies and the improvement of marketing machinery and techniques for farmers. The Minister also indicated that the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board and the Milk Industry Board had been placed at the top of the administrative chain, with their respective chairmen maintaining a direct liaison with the Deputy Minister.

As reorganized, the Department will function under the new Deputy Minister in four main divisions. The divisions, and the men who have been named to head them up, are as follows: Division of Administration, Assistant Deputy Minister T. R. Hilliard; Production and Extension Division, W. P. Watson; Marketing Division, R. G. Bennet; and, the Agricultural Research Institute, Dr. D. N. Huntley.

DEMAND FOR CROP INSURANCE LIKELY TO INCREASE

A substantial increase in demand for crop insurance is expected in Saskatchewan in 1962, according to Allan Brown of the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Board. Three reasons were given by Mr. Brown for the increased interest on the part of farmers:

1. Severe drought conditions in 1961 focused farmers' attention on the possibilities of crop insurance.
2. Crop failures occurred in areas of Saskatchewan last year that never had failures before.
3. Changes in the operation of the crop insurance program should make it more acceptable in 1962. (The down-payment on insurance is being reduced from 25¢ to 15¢ per acre, and the Board plans to accept prom-

issory notes for the rest of the premium.)

Mr. Brown announced that agents will be established in areas where crop insurance is now operating, and crop insurance agencies will be set up in areas where farmers show an active interest in having such insurance. This interest can be shown by farmers returning to the Crop Insurance Board, Regina, before January 31, 1962, completed questionnaires sent to them last year. New crop insurance areas will be declared on the basis of these questionnaires. ✓

CHANGE IN HOG DEFICIENCY PAYMENT PROCEDURE

The Canada Department of Agriculture has decided that if a deficiency payment on hogs is to be made for 1962, it will be paid on a claim basis only. In other words, individual producers will have to claim their deficiency payment from the Agricultural Stabilization Board in order to receive price support assistance.

Under this procedure, the producer must submit his settlement forms (hog carcass grading certificates) for the first 100 A and B hogs marketed in 1962, to become eligible for payment. It is important, therefore, that hog producers keep all settlement forms after January 1, 1962, even though prospects of a deficiency payment being made for the coming year appear remote at this time. ✓

3 NEW MEMBERS NAMED TO ONTARIO MARKETING BOARD

The appointment of three new members to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, and the transfer of a former member to other duties, has been announced by the Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Ontario Minister of Agriculture. The new members are Gordon Geer, Ottawa, Past President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; Gordon Hill, Past President of the Ontario Farmers' Union; and, Alden McLean, Muirkirk, Past President of United Co-operatives of Ontario. The new members, along with W. C. Nickerson of St. Catharines who remains on the Board, will work under Board Chairman George McCague. Bruce Teasdale, a former member of the Board, will devote full time to the expanding activities of the Co-operative Branch of the Department. ✓

POOL PRESIDENTS FOR ANOTHER TERM



In recent weeks these western farm leaders were re-elected to the posts of president of the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Wheat Pool organizations, respectively. They are G. L. Harrold, C. W. Gibbings and W. J. Parker.

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WHAT'S AHEAD IN '62

While conditions have improved, Canada is by no means out of the economic woods. In agriculture, farm-cash income should be better-than-average due to strong demand for grains and meat

by D. R. CAMPBELL, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph

As we enter 1962, it is encouraging to look back 12 months to the outlook as it was then. At that time we had a level of unemployment second only to the dreadful days of the 1930's; we had a vast surplus of wheat, and we were importing far more than we were exporting.

Last year in the outlook I wrote: "While we will have serious unemployment for the next 4 months, the worst should then be over. The last half of 1961 should see a return to the confidence and prosperity that we have come to regard as our national birthright." There have indeed been favorable changes in the past year!

The big contributor to our recovery has been the strong demand for Canadian exports. These were stimulated, in general, by the long-awaited decline in the foreign value of our dollar; and, in particular, by the stirring realignment in Western Europe, the economic recovery in the United States, and the appetites of Chinese and Eastern Europeans for our wheat.

Yet it appears plain that Canada is by no means out of the economic woods. Unemployment is still high (4.9 per cent in October) at a time of year when it should be at a minimum. Heavy unemployment can be expected this winter, though not so heavy as last year. Both Canada and the United States find themselves in the unusual and unhappy position of having considerable unemployment, even during a period of general prosperity. The demand for unskilled people in the labor market is going the same way as the demand for unbranded products in the supermarket. Along with unemployment, we are concerned about rising wages and costs, the competition of foreign goods, and about the terms of Britain's entry into the Common Market.

Looking ahead, it appears that 1962 should be a year of prosperity in Canada. The recovery that started in April of 1961 should extend all the way through 1962. Yet this prosperity will not be universal. We face the unpleasant prospect that at least 4 per cent of our labor force will be unemployed even in the best months, and twice that proportion in the worst months.

For agriculture, 1961 brought mixed blessings. After 4 very dry years on the prairies, the extreme drought of 1961 brought Canada to a deficit position in oats and barley for the first time in many years. Chinese demand, plus praiseworthy initiative on the part of the Minister of Agriculture, increased our wheat exports dramatically. In a 6-month period, the combination of large sales to China and the drought at home converted the long-standing wheat problem from "too much" to "too little." In livestock, there was such a remarkable increase in home demand in the last half of the year that considerably more beef and pork was consumed at higher prices than in the previous year.

For 1962, agriculture should have at least as good a year as in 1961. Dairying will remain a troubled industry with rising production, declining consumption and record stocks. Moisture conditions on the prairies continue to present serious

Major Farm Markets

- Fed cattle prices are likely to average \$1 per hundred higher in '62. Prices for good slaughter steers should be strong for the first half of year — \$25 basis Toronto — but probably \$24 next fall.
- Hog prices (basis Grade A, Toronto) should range \$25 to \$27 in first quarter, drop to \$24 in March and April, and rise to \$26 to \$27 during summer. Prices may drop again to \$25 next fall.
- Wheat exports should range from 330 to 340 million bu. Prices of coarse grains will continue high. Imports of oats and corn will be necessary.

- Dairying will remain a troubled industry in '62, with rising production, declining consumption and record stocks.
- Egg prices in early 1962 will be same as in 1961. Look for smaller-than-average rise in the fall.
- Broiler production will be heavy from February on, with steady downward pressure on prices.
- Turkey situation likely to be repetition of 1961, with prospect of slightly higher prices.
- Higher prices are predicted for corn, soybeans and flaxseed.

PRODUCT FORECASTS

threats to grain farmers and livestock feeders. On the other hand, strong foreign demand for wheat and barley and home demand for meat should make 1962 a better-than-average year for cash farm income, if grain production on the prairies returns to normal.

Livestock

CATTLE. Price predictions for 1962 are difficult to make. In the United States, the number of beef animals was up 1 per cent in 1961 and is expected to rise almost 2 per cent in 1962. Prices are expected to average slightly higher than in 1961. In Canada the number of beef cows, beef heifers, and steers was up over 8 per cent in June 1961, compared with a year earlier. However, since that time, Canadian exports of feeders have been very heavy, bringing the total for all of 1961 to about 360,000 head, compared with 150,000 head in 1960. The increased export of feeders, plus a 5 per cent increase in Canadian slaughter in 1961, means that we should enter 1962 with about the same number of beef cattle on farms as a year ago. Because of higher feed grain prices, fewer cattle will be finished to heavy weights and high quality.

On the demand side, there has been a marked increase in the amount of beef and pork that Canadian consumers will buy at a given price. This observer was caught flatfooted during the past 5 months by this remarkable increase in demand. In October, for example, Canadians consumed 5.5 per cent more beef at prices (for good slaughter steers in Toronto) at least \$1 per hundred higher than a year earlier. For hogs, the increase in consumption was almost 9 per cent in October at prices about \$1.70 per hundred higher than a year ago. These prices are at the farm level; there has been a considerable reduc-

tion in the margin between farm and wholesale prices, particularly for hogs.

For 1962, the price of fed cattle is likely to average about \$1 per hundred higher than in 1961, with a wider spread between top quality and low grade animals. Prices should be strong for the first half of 1962 (about \$25 for good slaughter steers in Toronto), but probably about \$24 next fall.

HOGS. In the past year, hog producers have received prices about \$4.50 per hundred higher than in 1960. A remarkable increase in demand by Canadian consumers during the fall, plus some narrowing of the margin between farm and wholesale prices, plus a widening of the differential between prices in Toronto and those in Western Canada, all combined to maintain prices in Toronto at a level about \$2-\$3 per hundred higher than might have been expected in the face of heavy increases in Canadian marketings.

For 1962, marketings are expected to be up 12 per cent in the first quarter and 4 per cent in the next two quarters compared with 1961. Prices in 1962 should range between \$25 and \$27 (Grade A in Toronto) in the first quarter, about \$24 in the seasonal low in March and April, and about \$26-\$27 during the summer. It is hard to predict prices next fall. Higher feed prices should discourage breedings, but current high prices for pork are working in the opposite direction. At present it appears that hog prices next fall may be close to \$25.

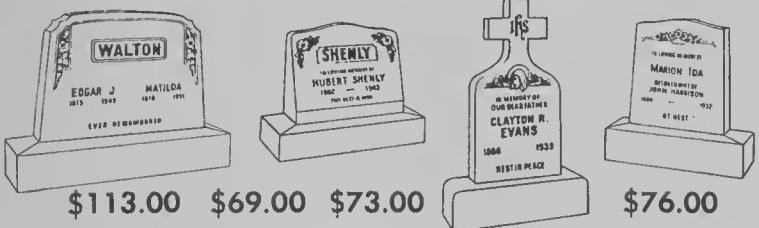
Dairy Products

Each year the dairy industry seems to be in a more vulnerable position than in the previous year. Production continues to increase, consumption to decrease, and government-owned stocks of butter to set new records. With the number of



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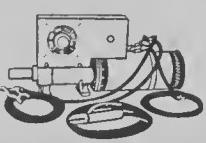
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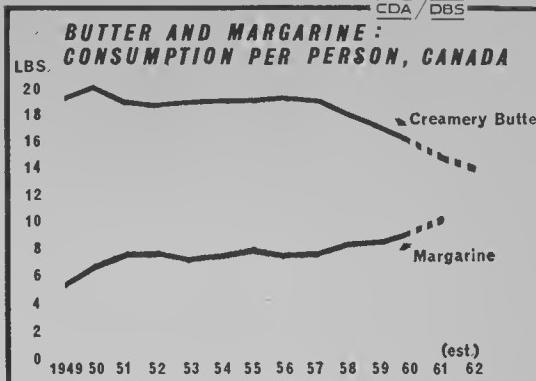
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dairy cows increasing, total milk production could be up another 3 per cent in 1962. Fluid milk consumption and cheese consumption will probably increase slightly in 1962, but evaporated milk consumption seems to have stabilized. Butter remains the dumping ground for the industry. Prices hinge on price supports; these will be unchanged to April 30, 1962.

BUTTER. The present support level of 64 cents continues to encourage production and discourage consumption. Per capita consumption has fallen at the rate of about one pound per year since 1957, and total consumption of margarine rose by 9 per cent in 1961 over 1960.

CHEESE. Production continued to increase in 1961, and stocks are at record levels. Prices in 1962 are likely to be at about the floor of 32 cents for Ontario cheese.

CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS. Stocks of skim milk powder have become heavy again in spite of very low prices. The stocks of all other concentrated products are also up, except for whole milk powder which is no longer under price support. All concentrated milk products will be under pressure in 1962, with little prospect of improved prices.

Grains and Feed

WHEAT. While world stocks of wheat continue high in relation to commercial demand, supplies in the 4 major exporting countries on October 1, 1961, were down 13 per cent. Almost three-quarters of these supplies are now held by the U.S.A.

Canada's remarkable increase in exports in 1961 arose largely from sales to China, Czechoslovakia, and U.S.S.R., and from very heavy sales of durum wheat. Exports rose from 277 million bushels in 1959-60 to 353 million in 1960-61. With world trade in wheat expected to increase in 1961-62, because of reduced production in Europe, Africa, and Asia and with Canadian wheat of particularly high quality, Canadian exports should be high in 1961-62, perhaps in the range of 330-340 million bushels.

FEED. For the first time in 10 years, there seems to be a problem of insufficient grain to feed our larger livestock population. Net supplies for 1961-62 per grain-consuming animal unit are approximately equal to last year's consumption; this would leave no carryover—an impossible situation. Prices of coarse grains will continue very high, and imports of oats and corn will be necessary.

CORN. Canadian production is the second highest on record, but imports will be larger than usual. In the United States, the corn supply is down slightly from the record supply of last year. Prices, however, are higher. It is expected that both Canadian and American corn prices may average close to 10 cents per bushel higher in 1962 than in 1961. The American support price has been increased to \$1.20 in 1961.

OILSEEDS. The United States' supply of soybeans is up 23 per cent from a year ago, which makes it unlikely that there will be another remarkable late season rise in price. U.S. prices should average about \$2.30 per bushel. Canadian prices are likely to correspond.

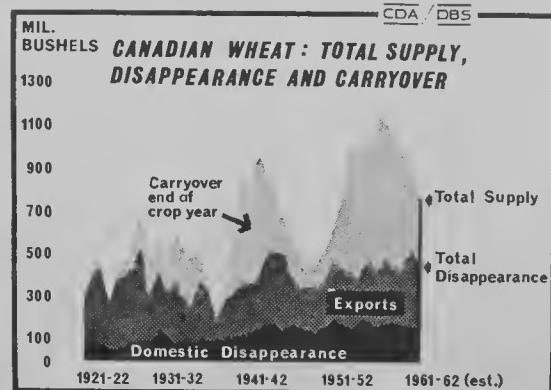
Flaxseed prices are expected to be high in 1962 as a result of lower supplies in Canada and the U.S.A.

Poultry

EGGS. Egg prices in 1961 averaged over two cents per dozen above 1960, which may encourage moderately heavier placements of chicks. Look for the same prices in early 1962 as in 1961 with a smaller-than-average seasonal rise in the fall. Trend to a higher hatch in late 1961.

BROILERS. Heavy production is likely to begin in February and continue through 1962, with steady downward pressure on prices.

TURKEYS. For several years we have experienced a 2-year "in and out" cycle. If this were to continue, 1962 would be a year of lighter production and higher prices. Present indications are, however, that 1962 may be a modest repetition of 1961 with heavy production and prices only slightly higher than in 1961. v



Estimated wheat supplies are down to 783.6 million bushels. Exports and domestic usage should add up to 475 million bushels in 1961-62 season.

Livestock Prices —

Can Packers Call the Tune?

by DON BARON

Investigation by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission suggests there is plenty of room for more price competition in livestock marketing

NO question has troubled and perplexed cattle and hog farmers in this country as much as this one: What is the best way to sell livestock? Farmers have been barraged with a welter of conflicting advice over the years. They have been urged to sell their livestock through a terminal market or direct to packers; or to sell at local community sales or rely on truckers to search out the best market. They have also been urged to use co-operatives and producer marketing boards. But in recent weeks, a surprising and disturbing document pertaining to this question has appeared. It provides a rare insight into the workings of livestock markets in the various areas of this country; the buying practices of Canada's largest meat packing company; and a broad view of the livestock market that has seldom been available to farm people before. This document could well be one of the most important to come upon the farm scene in years.

The document we refer to is the report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission of the Department of Justice, Ottawa, "Concerning the Meat Packing Industry and the Acquisition of Wilsil Limited and Calgary Packers Limited by Canada Packers Ltd."

After the Commission weighed the evidence presented to it by the director of investigation and research under the Combines Investigation Act, and the position taken by Canada Packers Limited on the allegations made against the Company, it concluded that: ". . . because of the degree of concentration which existed in the meat packing industry in Canada at the time of the acquisitions of Calgary Packers Limited and Wilsil Limited and the market power possessed by Canada Packers, the acquisitions were contrary to public interest as being likely to lessen competition in the industry in a substantial way and so deprive the public of the benefits of the competition which otherwise would prevail."

The Commission recommended to the Government that it fully explore the possibility of seeking a court order to have the mergers of Calgary Packers and Wilsil with Canada Packers dissolved, and failing this, that it seek a court order for the purpose of preventing Canada Packers from making any further acquisitions which would lessen competition in the meat packing industry.

It is, of course, for the Government to decide whether court action is advisable, and then for the courts to determine whether Canada Packers has, in fact, broken the laws of the land. Thus far the Government has not announced a course of action.

Our attention in this article is directed strictly to some of the apparent weaknesses in the present livestock marketing system, which we believe are brought out in the Commission's report, and the question of what producers might be able to do about them. After studying the report, our conclusion is that there is plenty of room for improvement in the livestock marketing system, and one obvious way of bringing such improvement about is for producers to see to it that their livestock is sold on the open market to the highest bidder.

Here are several points the documentary evidence in the report brings out to support this conclusion:

- Under today's marketing system, Canada Packers can exert at least some short-term control over the market.
- Competition among packers for livestock isn't always expressed in the form of higher prices.
- Employees of Canada Packers have been known to discuss bidding and buying policies with employees of other competing packers.
- Canada Packers, in apparent concert with other packers, have been known to deliberately hand over livestock already in its possession to small packers.
- More than anything else, packers apparently control or influence the livestock market with the volume of livestock which they get delivered direct to their plants — livestock that bypasses the open market.

► Packers Exert Influence

The situation around Edmonton is a glaring example of how packers make every effort to keep livestock from arriving at the terminal markets where they would have to bid openly and competitively for them. The situation there, and the network of buying stations set up by packers to intercept livestock before they get to the city's public market, is described in the report through a statement that was made in 1958 by the secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture to the Royal Commission on Price Spreads of Food Products.

It says in part: ". . . The disturbing feature of the livestock marketing

picture is the determined effort to by-pass public markets and to deal directly with individual producers.

"There appears to be a growing tendency on the part of processors who are the buyers of livestock, to establish as many individual sources of supply as possible, rather than to allow this stock to find its way to the central or terminal markets. In order to effect this, every packer-buyer has set up buying stations on all the main roads leading to the public market in Edmonton. . . ."

This statement makes a further charge against the packers too, for it goes on, ". . . Besides the above, all packers are paying commissions to truckers operating under a PSV license as an incentive to deliver stock direct to the packer rather than to terminal markets. . . ."

These buying stations keep some livestock off the open market. Packers don't have to bid in open price competition with other buyers for them. This not only reduces competition; it apparently does something else. Animals obtained through these buying stations, or through deliveries obtained direct to plants, may even be the ones that are used to force down the price that is established on the public yards.

One such example, cited in the report, concerns hogs in Alberta. A communication from the Edmonton plant manager of Canada Packers, to the Toronto head office, on January 13, 1953, describes the situation, and the action taken to deal with it:

"We are buying our truck hogs at \$20.75 basis A grade, but this is only a small percentage of our total receipts. Our country connections are based on Calgary and Edmonton markets. Due to extremely cold weather, 25 below today, receipts are light and both Edmonton and Calgary markets hogs sold at \$23.75 yesterday. We are working with competitors to divert some of our regular connections to the stockyards to try to get both Calgary and Edmonton markets to the floor. . . ."

And a day later, another communication:

". . . As practically all country hogs killed in Alberta sell basis Calgary or Edmonton yard markets, we have diverted approximately 500 expensive hogs to stockyards which in turn have sold to small packers. This lowers temporarily our killing percentage but should help take fire out of market. Do you agree with our action?"

This obviously wasn't a normal working of supply and demand on the market. If it was anything, it was a ganging up of packers to make the price on the market move to suit their own interests.

Packers in this case apparently had a goodly number of hogs which they had obtained somewhere other than on the public market. They made some of these hogs available to the small packers to prevent the latter from bidding up prices on the public market.

Cattle, which may be shipped direct to packers, are apparently used to influence market prices too, as indicated in the following correspondence from the Toronto office of Canada Packers to the Winnipeg office on June 12, 1956:

"With the break in the market yesterday, the chances are that Ontario deliveries will be light next Monday. To meet this, we are anxious to have 300 or 400 Western cattle in here Monday morning so that we can lay off the Toronto market if commission firms are trying to get higher prices."

Price Leadership

Communications written by Canada Packers' employees over the years, and reproduced in the report, also indicate that employees recognize that their firm is the biggest single organized factor in the livestock market. As a result, they believe they must provide leadership for the meat packing industry.

For instance, in 1954, one letter from a head office official in Toronto to an Edmonton official, urging that hogs be bought more cheaply, concluded ". . . all other Packers must be waiting for a lead from someone to get hogs onto a sound basis."

Another letter, from Toronto to Edmonton, urging lower prices, concludes: "Of course, someone has to take the lead. That someone should be Canada Packers."

In 1956, a letter from a Toronto official to all Canadian plant managers, urging salesmen to get higher prices for pork products, stated: ". . . As by far the biggest factor in the industry, we are the ones who must initiate corrective action."

Later the same year another official wrote: ". . . We have said many

times that Canada Packers must give the industry leadership to correct any operating difficulty."

A memorandum dated November 7, 1956, summed up the main decisions made at a meeting of company officials from Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. The decisions are listed as follows:

- Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver would work closely to keep heat out of the market, and would inform interested parties of the obvious effect of continuing to let Alberta markets remain high.
- Edmonton would endeavor to strengthen local selling prices, although this might involve a substantial volume reduction.
- The moment any increase in hog deliveries appeared, Edmonton plant would lower their paying prices at the plant gates.

On reading documents like these, one is forced to the conclusion that hog prices would be slower to decline, and faster to rise, if more hogs found their way to an open or terminal market where packers had to bid competitively for them. Packers would seem to be in a happy position, indeed, when they can simply lower their paying prices at the first sign of an increase in hog deliveries.

Competing Packers Consult

The unhappy state of the livestock market reveals itself in another way in correspondence bearing on the hog marketing situation in the Maritimes in 1956-57. The correspondence makes it abundantly clear that active bidding does not necessarily establish livestock prices and that, in fact, under the selling system in force, competing packers can reach tacit agreements on how they will bid for livestock and compete on the market.

Reports the Commission: "Toward the end of 1956, Canada Packers became concerned over competition from Swift Canadian Co. Limited in the purchase of hogs as the latter offered amounts, termed 'extras', in addition to the recognized market price on some direct purchases in P.E.I., and also paid more to the Maritime Co-operative Services Limited [the producer selling agency for the marketing board handling hogs in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia] than what Canada Packers considered was the official market price at Montreal."

Correspondence dated December 13, 1956, from the Charlottetown Plant Manager of Canada Packers to a head office official in Toronto provides an insight into the situation:

"... Last week, the official Montreal market was \$33.00 and our Montreal Plant confirmed this price which incidentally they do each week. Late Tuesday afternoon (last week) we made up our settlements for that afternoon's kill at \$32 (f.o.b. country basis) and sent out our cheques. The following morning we learned that Swift's were paying ½¢ higher. I immediately called Ernie Hoover (Manager Swift's) and asked him why they were paying ½¢ over Montreal. He claimed he had battled with Roy Grant (Maritime Co-operative) all Tuesday morning. Grant insisted on an extra ½¢ claiming that some hogs sold on the Montreal market at \$33.50. Hoover claimed he finally had to pay this price. This immediately established the Maritime price and we had to follow. I told Hoover I thought he had been wrong in giving in to Grant but he claimed in order to keep peace he had no alternative but it would correct itself next week."

(Please turn to page 48)

Ontario's Hog Auction Today

Who buys Ontario's market hogs? The highest bidder, every time! Compulsory legislation has been used to route every market hog through local assembly yards for teletype auction

ONTARIO'S teletype auction for hogs has been called by many people who are close to the market the most open and competitive selling system for livestock in the country. Under it, price, and price alone, determines who gets each market hog sold. It's a selling program that has caught the interest of livestock people everywhere. Farm groups across Canada have discussed it, and called in speakers to describe it to them. Livestock experts and farm groups from various provinces have visited Ontario to observe it. The Manitoba Livestock Marketing Enquiry Committee has visited Ontario to inspect it. The system has been described in detail in many Canadian papers (it was described in the June 1961 issue of *The Country Guide*) and in farm papers with nation-wide circulation in the United States as well. The system was even a main topic of discussion in at least one national farm organization meeting in the U.S.A.

This marketing program was developed over a number of years under provincial marketing legis-

lation. The teletype auction now being used came into effect last spring. It's a compulsory selling system. Every market hog in the province must be sold through it. No hogs can be delivered direct to packers in Ontario today.

The compulsory features of the scheme drew widespread criticism from some hog producers at one time—especially the larger producers—but since the teletype program has been instituted, that opposition has waned. Hog prices in the province under this competitive bidding system seem to be higher, in relation to other markets, than they were under other selling systems which have been tried.

Don Lowrie who has a 150-sow herd at Tillsonburg, and markets 2,000 hogs a year, is one who disliked the compulsory features of the scheme as it was being developed. He fought against compulsory marketing then. Now he says: "I hate to admit I was wrong, but this market looks better than anything we have had so far. It's

an open market. Competitive bidding seems to have pushed prices up."

Andy Stewart is another producer who has a large stake in the hog selling system. He produces and feeds 2,000 hogs a year on his farm at Morpeth. After watching the teletype selling system during its early months of operation, he says: "This is an excellent selling system. The principle of collective marketing is sound, and this auction is proving itself in practice now."

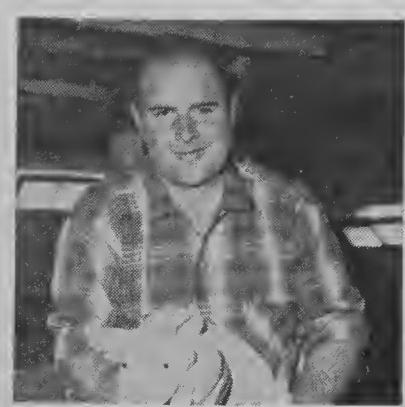
Here, briefly, is how it works. Farmers deliver their hogs to any one of the 44 assembly yards located throughout Ontario. Once a lot of hogs is on any yard, ready for offering, the manager of that yard notifies the sales office in Toronto, giving the number of hogs ready to move. Then, the sales staff offers these hogs for sale. This is done through the teletype system—the first of its kind ever devised. The teletype consists of a master machine, located in the selling agency head office, and over which all offerings are made. It is connected to 17 teletype buying machines in 17 processors' plants across Ontario and in Hull, Que. All buyers are notified over the teletype of the number of hogs in the lot being offered, the lot number, and the yard from which they are being offered.

The teletype operator then starts a tape which has been pre-punched on a declining price scale in drops of five cents. This offering appears simultaneously on all buying machines throughout the province. Individual buyers wait till the price appears which they are willing to pay, then press the button on their own machine. The first person to press the button buys the hogs.

In effect, every buyer in Ontario has an equal opportunity to bid on and buy any lot of hogs offered for sale.—D.R.B.



These Ontario farmers are delivering their hogs to the assembly yards located at Belleville to be sold through the teletype auction system.



DON LOWRIE:
"Competitive bidding
seems to have
pushed prices up."



ANDY STEWART:
"This hog auction is
proving itself
in practice now."

[Guide photos]

TERMINAL MARKETS

-Where Bidding Can Be Competitive

These cattlemen, truckers and commission agents say more cattle should go to terminal markets. Some even favor compulsion to get them there

THE Restrictive Trade Practises Commission Report, although lacking precise figures, indicates that an increasing proportion of livestock is being shipped "direct-to-packers," rather than finding its way to terminal stockyards where price competition can be more fully exerted.

The commission lists the following reasons for this development:

- Good roads encourage more use of trucks in the transportation of livestock.
- Packing plants are being built in localities distant from the larger public stockyards.
- The encouragement of direct shipments by packers.

To get views on the relative merits of these two systems of marketing, The Country Guide called on several well-known cattlemen and stockyard agents in Ontario. Here are a few of their comments:

Don Waters, who ships 11 or 12 hundred steers a year from his feedlot at Parkhill, Ont., has strong views on the subject.

"Why in the name of . . . would anyone send cattle direct to packers?" he exclaims. "There's only one way to sell livestock, and that's on a competitive bid basis — the man with the most dollars gets them, and an independent agent (the stockyards company) does the weighing."

"Ship your cattle direct, and you give packers the whip they will use to break the price. Direct shipments may put enough cattle into the hands of packers to enable them to stay off the public market for a time, and break the price there. If they break the price on the Toronto stockyards, they have broken it for the whole province, too, and affected other markets as well. In effect, it's the fellow who shipped his cattle direct, as much as the packer, who has broken the price."

Waters began feeding cattle 10 years ago and, in his early days, shipped many of his own cattle direct. But as a result of his experience, he now ships all his cattle to the open market.

Lawrence Kerr, one of Ontario's biggest farmers, feeds up to 600 steers a year as part of his enterprise at Chatham. Kerr ships many of his cattle through the terminal markets today, but if he feels circumstances warrant it, he will ship cattle direct to packers too. He hastens to add, however, that: "From the point of view of the industry generally, these direct shipments are wrong."

In fact, he resents the stream of buyers coming directly to his yard. "Somebody has to pay the expenses of these men, and I expect that it's producers like myself who do it," he says.

Kerr is prepared to suggest a solution too: "I would like to see a selling system whereby all cattle had to be put up for open bidding. Maybe a teletype system could be devised, somewhat similar to the one that is working so successfully for hogs now, whereby cattle could be sold on a dressed weight and grade basis. The government could then supervise the weighing and grading."

John Wilson of Charing Cross, is another cattleman who sits on the horns of a dilemma, regarding the present cattle market. Wilson feeds and sells 140 steers a year, as part of his cash cropping and livestock program, but most of these are

Aberdeen-Angus calves, fed for the Red Triangle Club program. This program calls for a dressed weight and grade basis of sale, so these cattle go direct to packers.

"But there's no doubt we would have stronger prices if more cattle went onto the open market," Wilson states. "When cattle go direct, buyers don't have to bid competitively for them, driving up prices." Any cattle he feeds that don't go to the Red Triangle Club program, go to the terminal market for sale. He for one would like to see some way of getting more cattle out where buyers have to bid on them.

Ross Beattie, of Beattie Bros., Stayner, who ship a sizeable number of cattle to the stockyards every week, from their big feedlot, states that experience has shown him that the terminal market is the best place to sell cattle. On the day in late December when we talked to him, his 17 steers had surprised market experts by selling at \$28.90.

"Under any other form of selling, they couldn't have gone that high," Beattie claimed. "No one would have had nerve enough to ask such a price. But buyers were prepared to bid it. This central market sets the price for cattle in Ontario . . . and across the country too. The more cattle that are sold there, the stronger and more honest that market will be."

One well-known cattle feeder and drover, who prefers to remain nameless, (he feeds 300 cattle a year, and trucks 50 to 60 cattle a week to market as well) shipped direct to packers for years. Now that cattle are sold by auction on the Toronto stockyards, he puts his own cattle, and most of those he trucks for other cattlemen, through the rings there.

"When several buyers get a chance to bid on cattle, a better market is bound to result. It puts competition into the market," he explained. He added: "I'd even be prepared to see compulsion used to get cattle onto the open market."

Asked whether farmers who ship through him, would accept such a system, he said with disarming frankness: "Farmers usually trust their truckers to take their cattle to whatever market is best. I'm sure that most truckers could place stock out into the open if they wanted to."

Bob Morrison, manager of the United Co-operatives of Ontario sales agency at the Toronto yards has a quick decisive answer, too, on the value of putting livestock up for competitive bidding. "If all livestock were out in the open at time of sale — say in the terminal market — prices would go pretty high. Cattle at terminal yards are bought on the basis of price. Buyers have to bid for them."

"Look at the hog market in Ontario today. Sure, prices fluctuate, but they do go up, and the farmers benefit. Buyers have to bid on those hogs, if they want to get them. Price, and price alone, determines who gets them."

We asked Morrison why so many cattle are sold direct to packers.

He answered: "Feeding cattle has been a tough business in recent years. Profits have been narrow, and farmers are trying to save commission charges. But they help break down the open market when they ship direct, and they are losing out as a result." —D.R.B. V

OPEN SALES PREFERRED



LAWRENCE KERR: "Direct-to-packer shipment is wrong from the industry's viewpoint generally." [Guide photos]



JOHN WILSON: "We would have stronger prices if more of our cattle went on the open market."



DON WATERS: "Ship cattle direct and you give packers a whip they'll use to break the price."



BOB MORRISON: "If livestock were being sold out in the open, prices would go pretty high."



ROSS BEATTIE: "Auction at terminal yard will carry the prices higher than any other system."



Bob Mitchell depends on . . .

6 Points for Success

- 1 A high return per acre.
- 2 Maintain soil fertility.
- 3 Buy feed if it's cheaper.
- 4 A high quality feed ration.
- 5 High production per cow.
- 6 Efficient building layout.

by CLIFF FAULKNER

A DAIRYMAN operating in a high tax area must get a high return from his land each year. He can't afford to keep idle acres. This means he must select the best crops and the best rotations. He must also fertilize heavily to maintain the fertility of his hard-working soil. If he can find a crop which will give abundant feed as well as a good cash return, so much the better.

That's why Bob Mitchell of Chilliwack, B.C., stopped producing feed grains and hay and put in freezing peas to supply the frozen food trade. This crop gives him from 2 to 2½ tons of peas, and 8 to 10 tons of succulent vines per acre. It also works in well with the farm's grazing schedules. Because peas are a short season crop (71 days), fall rye can be sown after the former has been harvested. This provides fall pasture for the cows, then spring pasture again next season. The pea vines are put up as silage.

"What I'm looking for now is a good crop to rotate with peas," said Bob. "This year, I'm trying Vitagrass."

Vitagrass is made from a mixture of orchard grass and ladino clover. The grass is dehydrated and sold to mix with various feeds. In the Chilliwack area, two firms process Vitagrass, one of which is a farmers' co-operative. Bob already markets milk and buys feed through a co-op.

"Vitagrass crops have to produce well or they won't pay," Mitchell explained. "By irrigating and applying lots of fertilizer, a farmer can get about 1 ton of grass per acre from each of 5 or 6 cuttings. This amounts to about 2 tons of the dried grass per acre per season. But he gets this revenue with a minimum of trouble. A sward only has to be renewed every 4 years—providing it doesn't winterkill, that is. And the contracting company harvests and dehydrates the crop."

THE Mitchells' "Greenarch Farm" consists of 56 acres, plus some 60 acres of adjoining land which is rented. Thirty-five acres are sown to pasture. In addition to this, Bob rents another 50 to 75 acres in the district for his peas. The pea crop generally amounts to about 100 acres. All hay and feed grain requirements are bought, because it would take too much valuable land to produce enough to supply his milking herd of 50 grade Holsteins.

Bob's pasture is irrigated and heavily fertilized. Electric fences divide it into 2½-acre strips for rotational grazing. Cows are rotated twice each day so they have a fresh piece of pasture placed before them every night and morning.

Like many stockmen, Bob Mitchell has found that the most economical way to carry a lot of animals on a limited acreage is to put up silage. For winter feed, the cows take about 80 to 90 lb. of silage, 6 to 10 lb. of alfalfa hay and 10 or more pounds of grain per animal per day. Grain is fed at a rate of about 1 lb. of grain to every 5 lb. of milk each cow gives. But Bob feels it's hard to cut a cow's grain ration as her production drops and still have a contented cow at milking time. He feeds his fresh cows only slightly more grain than he feeds animals that are going dry. This puts his dry animals in good shape for their

2-month rest period when they will receive no grain at all. The grain is fed during milking. Silage is brought into the feeding area in a converted manure spreader.

"With alfalfa hay, peavine silage and grain, their ration is possibly a bit high in protein," Bob admits. "I could cut out the grain I suppose, but I don't want to. I get results with this ration. The cows are used to that grain at milking time, and might not produce as well without it."

The "results" are impressive. Mitchell's herd is top large-herd producer for their end of the Fraser Valley. In 1960, it had an average of 530 lb. butterfat and 13,945 lb. of milk each lactation.

Bob believes in feeding his cows about five times a day instead of having the feed constantly before them, as in a self-feeder. When he first started this practice, he increased his total milk production by as much as 200 lb. a day.

ANOTHER aid to efficient production is good buildings and equipment, planned with an eye to saving labor. The Mitchell farm consists of a series of Gothic-arched structures arranged L-fashion, with a modern 4-place milking parlor and bulk tank room at the bottom. One side of the "L" contains a hay storage barn and feeding area; the other a loafing shed.

Calf pens in the barn have doors which swing from the ceiling so a tractor can be driven in to clean them. These pens are cleaned twice a year. The feeding area is cleaned out every second day. Manure in the loafing shed is not allowed to build up over 1½ feet deep.

Bob made these buildings himself. Even the milking parlor fixtures were made in his farm workshop.

"I like to put up a building a year," he said. "The trouble is, I'm now running out of things to build."

The most impressive structure on the place is a huge covered bunker silo. This silo towers 28 ft. at the roof apex, is 60 ft. long and 30 ft. wide. The sides are held up by pressure-treated poles

placed 4 feet apart and sunk 4 feet into the ground. They are lined with 2-inch, tongue-in-groove planking, and the bottom 2 planks are treated with a wood preservative. Its roof is supported by paired trusses made of 2 x 8's placed one each side of each pole. Cost of the whole structure was about \$2,500.

Open at both ends, this big silo holds 1,000 tons of green feed. It settles to some 700 tons when cured. During the threshing, peavine is conveyed by elevator right into the silo from the viner station located in the Mitchell yard. Vine belonging to neighboring farmers is trucked home—that from Bob Mitchell's fields is packed down into the silo with a tractor.

By using this peavine silage, Bob gets the bulk of his feed for about \$2.50 a ton. The value of the vines accounts for \$1.50 of this. The remaining dollar represents the cost of putting it up. One man and a tractor (plus the tractor operator) are all that is needed to do the job. Being a contract crop, the peas are harvested and handled by the company concerned. This has enabled Mitchell to run his farm with only one permanent man.

Born in Vancouver, Bob came to Chilliwack with his parents at the age of one. He was raised on his parents' farm there. When he decided he wanted to be a farmer too, he worked on a few local places to gain more experience. Later, he rounded this off with a season on a grain farm near Eston, Sask. When he finally went on his own, he started from "scratch" on borrowed money.

Bob bought his present farm in 1950. During each summer he acts as foreman for Fraser Valley Frosted Foods. This means supervising the pea harvest on many other farms besides his own. He is also president of the Fraser Valley Pea Growers' Association, secretary of the Sardis local of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association, and a member of the Advisory Council of the B.C. Milk Board. He is also secretary of the Group Committee of the 2nd Sardis Boy Scouts. It's a well-known axiom that only a very busy man can find time to engage in so many outside activities. □



End view of Mitchell's 1,000-ton, covered bunker silo. Peavine is being conveyed into neighbor's truck. Several of them have their pea crop threshed at the Mitchell viner station located near Chilliwack, B.C.

ONTARIO MARKET ENQUIRY

A summary of the Enquiry Committee's main findings and recommendations

by LORNE HURD

THE central problem, common to almost all major farm problems, is insecurity, and the basic solution to almost all of these problems is adjustment of one kind or another. This is the overriding conclusion reached by the 5-member Ontario Agricultural Enquiry Committee, after 2 years of intensive study and research. The Committee's 235-page report was submitted in June of last year to the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and was released to the public in November.

Ontario is Canada's most important agricultural producing province. In the 1957-59 period, it accounted for 31 per cent of the nation's cash farm income. Ontario is also an important and growing market for agricultural commodities produced in other provinces, since it is on an import basis for many of them. Because of its leading role from both production and marketing standpoints, an investigation of the kind conducted by the Enquiry Committee has a significant message for farmers in all parts of this country. What follows is an attempt to present some of the highlights of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

The enquiry was prompted by two deeply disturbing features of agricultural conditions in the province: the worsening plight of farmers, and their declining share of Ontario's expanding market. The Committee was instructed to consider:

1. The general and economic problems of packing, storage, processing, marketing, transporting and distributing agricultural products produced in Ontario;
2. Existing producer marketing plans and arrangements, in the light of present, large-scale food processing and distributing systems;
3. The effect of such concentration of buying power on the producer, and the most practical form of producer group action to meet this concentration; and,
4. The organization of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee, in its own words, looked upon its commission as being directed mainly "to studying general agricultural trends in Ontario and to diagnosing and prescribing for persistent problems rather than putting out 'bush fires'."

Trends

An analysis by the Committee of the trends in demand, marketing and farming led it to these major conclusions:

DEMAND. Shifting patterns of demand are signals calling for modifications in the quantities, qualities and kinds of commodities being produced. Substantial increases in consumption per person of meat (especially beef), poultry meat, fruit (especially processed fruit), ice cream, and cheese are forecast. A medium increase is forecast for concentrated milk products, peaches, pork, and tobacco. A small increase is forecast for eggs, apples and grapes. No change, or almost no change, is forecast in the per capita consumption of oils and fats, dairy products as a whole, vegetables as a whole, tomatoes, fish, and sugar. A small decline is forecast for fluid milk. Substantial declines are predicted for cereal products, potatoes, butter, pulses and nuts.

Food being a necessity, total sales do not re-

spond rapidly to changing prices. The sales of particular foods produced by Ontario farmers are usually sensitive to price changes, however, because of competition from substitutes and from other producing areas.

MARKETING. Farmers generally have found the selling of their products to be a risky business. What is needed is a system of marketing that will guide farmers in producing the quantity and quality of products wanted by consumers, that will process and distribute these products efficiently, and that will pay all parties concerned fairly for their contributions.

The food processing, wholesaling and retailing industries have been becoming more concentrated. In general, increased concentration in food processing and distribution makes it seem more uncertain that there will be active price competition for the farmers' products or that any gains from increased efficiency will be passed back to, or retained by, the producer. Under these circumstances, it was to be expected that the many small, independent producers would band together in some form of collective bargaining.

Traditionally, producer, processing and distribution groups have organized themselves "horizontally," with each group facing each other in a climate of conflict.

The need is urgent for closer vertical co-ordination among the successive links in the chain from producer through to consumer.

FARMING. Ontario itself offers large and expanding markets for farm products.

Industrialization and the rapid growth of population, while the farm population has been declining, have reduced the proportion of Ontario people living on farms to about 10 per cent in 1961. The trend in Ontario, as in most other provinces, is toward fewer, larger and more specialized family farms.

The competitiveness of Ontario agriculture hinges upon the utmost use of the latest technology. The initial benefits go mainly to the first farmers to adjust, and the long-run benefits go mainly to the general public in the form of lower prices.

Even if attention is confined to the so-called commercial farms, there is considerable inequality in incomes. In addition, there are many thousands of non-commercial farms with very low incomes. On the average, farm incomes in Ontario are well below non-farm incomes.

Continuing economic change and increasing research mean that the technological revolution in farming has by no means run its course. Thousands of Ontario farmers are being rendered obsolete and surplus every year. Farmers who were doing well a few years ago, but who failed to adjust their methods since, are in trouble today. Farmers who are doing well today will be in trouble a few years from now if they fail to adjust in the meantime. The problem is how to help farmers to adjust and how to help out farmers who fail to adjust.

Problem and Remedy

As mentioned at the outset, the Committee became convinced that the central problem in agriculture is insecurity, and the basic remedy is adjustment.

To capture the full significance of this conclusion, we can do no better than to present the following extracts from the Committee's report.

"The costliest mistake in human terms that could be made would be to believe that an easier, quicker and cheaper remedy than adjustment can be found to the deep-seated and pervasive problem of agricultural insecurity.

"Neither collective bargaining power for producers nor price support programs can cure the problem of obsolete farms and submarginal farmland in Ontario, or solve the problem of capturing a larger share of the Ontario market.

"Collective producer marketing power is effective in raising product prices only when there are no close substitutes or competing sources of supply, which is not usually the case with Ontario farm products.

"Marketing boards can stabilize and streamline marketing and return part of the resulting gains to the producers.

"Price supports are useful only for moderating short-run instability and cannot cure, but can aggravate, long-run maladjustments.

"Tariffs offer temporary protection only.

"To suggest that any one of these is a cure, however, only compounds the insecurity by building up false hopes within the industry.

". . . The biggest adjustment of all is required in our mental approach or attitude to the agricultural problem. The history of nations shows that the wealthiest countries and those with the most prosperous farmers are the ones with a small proportion of their people in farming. The first claim of people upon resources is for food, but progress would be impossible if food production could not be increased faster than needed and thereby release some people for a variety of other activities.

"The only significant and chronic surplus being produced in Ontario agriculture is farm people. Surplus farm people, like surplus coal miners, fishermen, and other technologically displaced persons, are entitled to a measure of security but not necessarily in the occupation of their choice. A shift in government thinking is urgently needed with much more emphasis and aid to help these surplus people adjust out of farming. The insecurity of these surplus people would be lessened by open recognition all around that they are surplus, and then get on with the social welfare task of helping them. The real trouble here is that our social engineering has failed miserably to keep pace with agricultural technology.

"New jobs and productive new lives for these people will not necessarily be found in large cities. Rural Development is a new step in the right direction. As far as Ontario is concerned, its participation in Rural Development should be broadly conceived and form part of the Agricultural (Production and Marketing) Adjustment Act which we are proposing as the legal and philosophical embodiment of the Enquiry Committee's key recommendations.

"Agricultural insecurity is caused not by change alone but by unexpected change, past, present and future—in the farm supply sector, in farming itself, and in farm marketing. Co-ordination or integration between these major sectors is the

(Please turn overleaf)

ONTARIO MARKET ENQUIRY

(Continued from preceding page)

business method of rapidly accomplishing the adjustments required by mass retailing of food.

"If farming in Ontario fails to adjust, then our food will increasingly come from outside the province, and our farming will gradually wither and disappear. If, instead, farming in Ontario accelerates its present rate of adjustment, then it will supply an increasing share of a rapidly expanding home market, and agriculture will develop in sturdy and prosperous balance with the growth of the other sectors of the economy."

"What is needed in commercial agriculture in Ontario is continuous adjustment, guided wherever possible by market research, and aided wherever needed by government, in order to integrate farming more smoothly with general economic development and to enable farming to produce in conformity with changing market patterns. Prosperity will con-

tinue to elude producers who rely on hit-and-miss marketing. What is called for is more and better production from fewer and larger farms.

"The market opportunities facing Ontario agriculture are remarkably favorable. We are suggesting that it should mount an offensive. We would like to see it close its ranks and advance with confident and fruitful collaboration into our inviting markets."

Main Recommendations

To meet the changing conditions and requirements of today's and tomorrow's agriculture, the Enquiry Committee made more than 60 detailed recommendations. We can do no more than attempt to present in our own words some of the main recommendations in brief form.

The Committee maintained that regardless of how little or how much marketing is performed by individual farmers, they have a vital economic interest in what takes place beyond the farm gate. This is so because the pattern of flow, saleability, and prices of farm products are affected. Producer groups can only gain from acquiring more intimate knowledge of the food and agriculture industry beyond the point of first sale.

Based on this line of argument, the Committee made a set of recommendations in which they urged: More research in consumer preference; a re-appraisal of grade standards to bring them into line with consumer preferences; joint producer-trade action to improve the quality of farm products; more rapid advancement toward a better and more uniform level of quality and inspection of raw milk for all purposes; and, co-ordinated packing of fruit and vegetables.

Market Structures and Prices. After a lengthy consideration of market structures and price making, the Committee made these key claims:

- Producers have more to gain than to lose from coming to terms with the requirements of supermarket chains for large, reliable supplies of uniform quality and uniform pricing. (The Committee stated that low supply prices appear to be less important to chains than assured, large-volume supplies of uniform quality—providing rivals do not get their supplies at lower prices.)

- Forward pricing is one of the tools available for jointly accomplishing greater security in marketing.

- Fuller reporting of sales and prices in various farm product markets is urgently needed.

- The large price differential between fluid milk and milk for other uses cannot be maintained indefinitely. The Committee recommended the establishment of a province-wide producer milk marketing board to collect milk from farms, negotiate prices, pay blended prices to grade "A" and "B" milk shippers.

• The various interest groups involved in producing and marketing hogs and pork products should pool their knowledge and set up a statistical service providing outlook estimates of hog numbers and prices in order to reduce the widespread wastes of the hog cycle. The same should be done by beef producing and marketing interests.

Marketing. In the chapter dealing with "Marketing Farm Products," the Committee made this significant statement: "... The right approach to reducing market uncertainty and to improving the farmer's income position lies in farmers taking a much more active part in processing and distributing their products, in greater unity of action among themselves, and in closer liaison with the rest of the industry. Revolutionary changes in retailing and technology demand greater co-ordination between agricultural production and marketing in a fresh, forward-looking way."

The Committee spelled out what marketing co-operatives, marketing boards and contracting can and cannot be expected to do. Then it made these main recommendations:

1. Co-operative marketing should be encouraged. The new Co-operatives Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture should promote and strengthen the co-operative movement.

2. Co-operatives should set the pace in contracting, and farm organizations should keep farmers well-informed as to the favorable and unfavorable types of contracts being offered.

3. Local marketing boards should not, for the most part, be permitted to acquire substantial processing facilities, or engage in compulsory selling. Price should be the only basis for allocating sales.

4. Much more attention and funds should be devoted separately and jointly to marketing research, which has lagged seriously behind production research.

5. Barriers and impediments to the continuous and more rapid adjustment of Ontario agricultural production and marketing to market trends should be removed.

6. Vertical commodity marketing associations are required and should be established to co-ordinate production and marketing. Their main purpose should be to assure that the quantity and quality requirements of consumers are met. They should include representatives of all groups, from producer to consumer, who are involved in marketing a commodity or a closely associated group of commodities.

Management. The Committee recommended that the Department of Agriculture place increasing stress in its production research, extension and information work upon farm business management as a major solution for low farm incomes of those people remaining in farming.

Supply Control. The Committee believed that supply control would not work on a provincial basis (except for one or two products) nor on a national basis, because of the problems of allocating quotas across Canada. Rather than pursuing supply

control, the Committee recommended that Ontario agricultural production should increase and become as competitive as possible, in order to capture a larger share of the province's expanding market.

Department Reorganization. The Committee considered and made important recommendations on the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture. It proposed that the Government of Ontario prepare and enact an Agricultural (Production and Marketing) Adjustment Act which would provide for:

- ✓ Changing the name of the Department of Agriculture to the "Department of Food and Agriculture."

- ✓ Ontario's participation in a federal-provincial-municipal program of Rural Development.

- ✓ Establishment of a new Agricultural Industry Board to act as a co-ordinator of marketing boards, co-operatives, marketing associations, processors, transporters, distributors, and the industry in general, including consumers. (It would require semi-judicial powers to enforce decisions where agreements could not be reached among disputing parties.)

- ✓ Delegation of specific and more limited powers to the existing Farm Products Marketing Board, including responsibility for the powers which it in turn delegates to local producer boards.

- ✓ Delegation of specific limited powers to the proposed new vertical commodity marketing associations.

- ✓ Increased adjustment-orientated research in farm management, farm management extension, and farm credit.

- ✓ Changes in the organization of the Department along the following main lines:

- (1) Federating the colleges and institutes at Guelph into a university supported by the Department and administered by a board of governors appointed by the Minister of Agriculture;

- (2) Retaining departmental policy and administration, regulation and inspection at Toronto;

- (3) Directing research, education and extension from Guelph;

- (4) Establishing an Agricultural Research Institute at Guelph;

- (5) Greatly expanding agricultural marketing research without reducing production research; and,

- (6) Having agricultural representatives function as farm management adjustment advisors for commercial farms, and as Rural Development adjustors for submarginal farmers.

Farm Organizations. Finally, the Committee expresses the belief that the interests of Ontario farmers as a whole could be better served by one general farm organization. To this end, it recommended that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Farmers' Union unite over a maximum period of 3 years. At the end of the period, the Committee proposed that local marketing board powers be transferred from existing commodity organizations to the single general farm organization by the Farm Products Marketing Board. The general farm organization would, in turn, delegate these producer board powers to its appropriate commodity subcommittees. ✓

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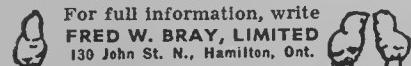
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Through Field and Wood

No. 40

by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



DEVL'S club—rightly named—is a sinister growth that lurks in the underbrush of the Pacific coastal forest interior from Vancouver Island to Alaska. Unforgettable when encountered, it is not easy to describe.

Picture a forest gloom where sunlight only fitfully penetrates: giant trees, vines festooned with fantastic globes and trailing streamers of green and yellow moss. Hidden in the spongy debris of the forest floor, among a welter of slowly decaying logs lie the twisting stems of devil's club, coiling and writhing like a mass of snakes. Leaves, sometimes half a yard across, cluster in crowns rising from knee high to 10 or 12 feet overhead.

The rubbery, pliant stems, varying from a broomhandle's thickness to almost as thick as a baseball bat, are matted with thorns that have a devilish affinity for human skin. Through the thickest jungles of devil's club it is impossible to force a way without machete, or jungle knife, but even where found scattered sparsely their malevolence is no less. Stems from 6 to 20 feet are looped in contorted angles along the ground before turning up to tower overhead.

No matter how warily you advance, sooner or later your foot catches a loop hidden in the ankle-deep moss. And, as you stumble forward, the crown and overhead stem come down on your head or back like a whiplash. Instinctively you throw out a hand to break your fall and, without fail, the devil's club has a stem ready. Thousands of bristling needles are waiting, and in an instant your hand is full of spines. Nor is this all. Often the needles set up

itching inflammation easing only when they fester out many days later.

Pushing through devil's club is a series of irritations which each successive mishap—and fresh rash of thorns—aggravates. But no use getting angry. Anger breeds carelessness, and the devil's club is only too ready to punish painfully he who lets temper goad him into trying to fight it.

WHOEVER has milked a cow outside in flytime needs no other illustration. No sooner is the milker settled than *swish!*—the cow's tail slashes across his face with a slap that brings tears to his eyes. As switch follows switch, the unfortunate grits his teeth and determines he will not lose his temper. But on it goes—*swish, crack! . . . swish, crack!*—until at last the maddened victim sees red, bounds up and attacks the cow with the milk stool. Just so is a journey through devil's club.

Why, then, go where it grows? My only answer is that for me personally the beauty of these coastal rain forests is such as one would hardly hope to see outside the tropics. Great trees tower to the sky, branches in a canopy overhead are shrouded with interwoven pillows of viridian moss. Pencils of sunlight gleam through, lighting with golden green and turquoise blue the exotic foliage below. Yellow green and rusty orange leaves shine where the devil's club has begun to wither. Here a cluster of berries glows scarlet; and far beyond is the tender, misty blue of the rain-shrouded mountains. To see such sights as these, braving the devil's club is a price worth paying.

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Dairy Take-over by Farmers

Nova Scotia milk producers grabbed their "chance of a lifetime." Now their new co-operative distributes 75 per cent of the milk used in the Halifax-Dartmouth area

by DON BARON

IT'S a long leap from milking cows to running a million-dollar business enterprise. But down in Nova Scotia, a group of dairy farmers set out last fall to do just that.

Fluid milk producers, shipping to the Halifax-Dartmouth market, performed the remarkable feat of forming a new co-operative, raising \$200,000 in cash, and making the remaining financial arrangements to complete the purchase of a million-and-a-quarter-dollar dairy enterprise in just a matter of weeks. The deal gave the farmers ownership of Maple Leaf Dairy in Halifax—the biggest dairy in the province's most densely populated area.

Since Maple Leaf holds controlling interest in another dairy, Farmers' Ltd., this one transaction brought under the control of farmers, the distribution of three-quarters of all the milk sold in the big Halifax market.

The deal has observers shaking their heads in wonderment. Plenty of farmers themselves are astounded at the boldness of the group's move. To get the story behind this development, Country Guide visited the president of the new co-op, Mr. Harold Curry.

Curry is one of the more successful dairy farmers in the province. His farm is in the Annapolis Valley on the outskirts of Windsor. He has a 10-can milk quota.

Sitting in his living room, Curry admitted, in his slow, deliberate way of speaking, that the farmers did, in fact, move with remarkable speed when the opportunity arose to get into the dairy business. But he added: "The idea itself wasn't new by any means. Many of us had been considering for years how we could get into the dairy business."

"Why?" we asked. "Some of us have had a feeling of frustration about our role in the dairy industry," he explained. "We felt our job wasn't complete when we shipped our milk off the farm. We thought we should be putting the bottle of milk right onto the housewife's doorstep. Maybe we felt we should have more control over things like prices and conditions of sale too."

"Mind you," he went on, "we didn't feel the processors were being unfair to us. We had a good relationship with Halifax distributors. We just felt we should have more control over our milk."

THE feelings of those producers came to the surface at the last annual meeting of the United Milk Producers Association — the organization which represents fluid milk producers shipping to the Halifax-Dartmouth market. A committee was appointed to see about building a surplus plant.

Reflecting about that committee, Curry admits that surplus has never been a big problem in the area. It amounts to less than 10 per cent of the milk. "I guess we thought this would be just the first step in getting into the dairy business," he says.

It was after the committee was formed that the big opportunity arose. The owner of Maple Leaf Dairy, Av. Johnson, said to the producers: "Look, there are enough plants in the area now. If you want to get into the dairy business, I'll sell you mine."

The offer looked like the chance of a lifetime to the farmers. They swung into action.

First of all, Curry and other leading dairymen established the Twin Cities Co-operative. The Co-op then took an option on the dairy.

"Our first job was to evaluate the plant," Curry recalls. "Since we didn't know how to do it ourselves, we called in experts."

A firm of accountants went over the books for them. A dairy plant specialist from one of the biggest farm organizations in the United States, the American Farm Bureau, examined the plant itself.

When it was agreed that the million-and-a-quarter-dollar price tag was a reasonable one, the co-op leaders began a whirlwind campaign to win support from the 550 fluid milk shippers in the market. They called a series of farm meetings to present their plans.

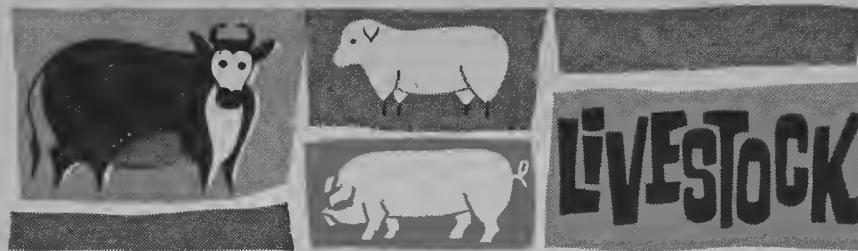
COST of membership in Twin Cities Co-operative was to be \$50. But since, under the terms of purchase, the co-op would have to raise \$200,000 in cash right away, members would be asked for an immediate contribution of \$100 a can for each can of milk quota they had. This contribution would not be compulsory. Further financing was planned through a voluntary, continuing check-off of 25 cents a can, once the Co-op took over. Profits, too, were to be plowed back into the business to complete the purchase. During this time, every producer was to be credited with his input in the form of share capital.

Local branches of banks were also informed of these plans, so they could better cope with requests from dairy farmers for loans. When the series of meetings was over, and the reaction of farmers had been assessed, it was apparent that the campaign was a success. This fall, the farmers took over ownership of the big dairies.

With their first formidable goal of owning a dairy achieved, another challenge, at least as formidable, faces the dairy farmers. Their co-operative is still an infant. But the business it controls is a huge one. It was built up under different ownership. The Co-op must find a way to manage its million-dollar dairy successfully.

Here again, luck may be playing into the hands of the farmers. Johnson himself, who built it up, has agreed under the terms of the option to stay on with the dairy and manage it, if requested.

Dairy farmers across the country will be watching carefully the success of this co-operative venture, in the days to come. V



How to Earn Premiums for Top Grade Hogs

Champion hog producer George Paice says "you can't make an A out of a B"



[Guide photos]

These 5-month-old hogs are the type that Paice stakes his reputation on.

IT'S not by luck that a man has 83 per cent of his hogs graded A. So The Country Guide asked George Paice how he did it. George shipped 110 hogs in 1960, and 91 of them made the A grade, earning him top award in the Saskatchewan bacon hog competition.

"First of all," he said, "you should breed from the long, lean, deep-bodied type. You can't make an A out of a B. This means, of course, that you don't look for cheap breeding stock, but you don't have to buy the most expensive either." One of George's best boars cost him \$65 and did a fine job. His present boar came from a high-scoring sow at Saskatoon. Selection means good judgment, knowing what you want and refusing to settle for something else.

"Next," said Paice, "you have to like raising hogs, because you are going to see a lot of them if you do a proper job." When a sow is farrowing, he sits with her through the night and the next night. As each pig is delivered, he puts it in a box under the heat lamp, allows it out to suck from time to time, and keeps doing that with the whole litter for about 24 hours. By that time, they've got a good start, they know where the lamp is, and he never loses any of them through crushing. Then he keeps a close watch on them right through the growing period, and adjusts the ration according to their needs.

Each baby pig is given iron, either by injection or orally. They have their pre-starter ration when they are not more than a week old, and later are given starter ration at the rate of a bag per litter. When they reach 80 or 90 lb., they're introduced to

grain with concentrate pellets. At 100 lb. they still have pellets, with an anti-worm medication incorporated, and the grain ration is steadily increased. The grain is about 900 lb. of oats to 100 lb. of concentrate, moving up to 1,700 lb. of grain. The concentrate is fed quite heavily until they reach 125 lb., and then it's lowered if they are doing well. This can be judged only by watching the hogs' development.

George feeds some wheat too, especially in winter when it may go as high as 25 per cent or more of the grain ration.

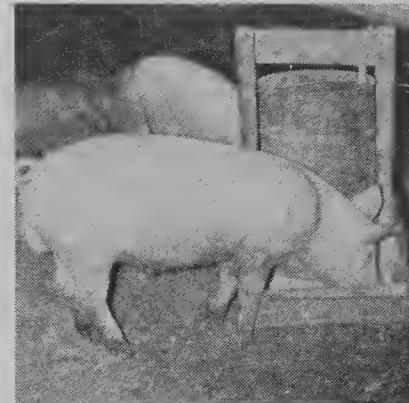
Sows are watched as closely as the market hogs are, and he likes to keep them slim. They are given chop a week before farrowing, at a higher rate than that for market hogs, and usually as a wet ration. But they have no feed at all for 24 hours after farrowing—just plenty of water. The sows spend most of their time on pasture in winter and summer.

These sows are productive. Recently, 12 of them produced 123 pigs, and 3 of them weaned 39.

The finished hogs are shipped usually to Brandon, 120 miles from Whitewood, Sask. George loads up to 8 of them in his ½-ton, preferring to take a small lot rather than wait for more of them to be ready. He loads up in the morning and is there by noon, and the hogs go into the

killing plant the same day. This eliminates weight losses, as well as cutting down the waiting period, when hogs tend to fight and tear at one another. He hates to see them suffer in this way.

George has always had 75 to 80 per cent of his hogs graded A, and can't understand why some producers are content to settle for less. Because he has concentrated on quality, he has not been able to



One of the young Yorkshire boars retained for potential breeding stock.

modernize his housing and feed handling, although he plans to do it. He uses a barn that is more than 60 years old, and there's no water laid on.

The way that George Paice started with hogs is revealing. He went to a Regina sale in 1954 and couldn't afford the good stuff that was being offered. He was not interested in the cheaper stock, so on the way home he stopped at the Indian Head Experimental Farm on the chance that they might have something to sell him. They offered him a good breeding group of Yorkshires, he liked the look of them, and they were his—a boar and two gilts—for a total of \$75.

Such a bargain has never come his way since. But he still shops carefully for breeding stock, and that's the main reason why he has the type of hog that goes 83 per cent grade A.—R.C. □

How to Fatten Steers Without Using Any Grain

George Kerr grows and fattens steers on grass and corn silage, and over 80 per cent dress out red brand

"TO survive in the beef business today, you must have an advantage of some kind!" That's the view of Dresden, Ont., farmer George Kerr. And in comparing his own program to that of other beef producers, whether they run feedlots or cow herds, or what, George makes it emphatically clear that the advantage from which he squeezes every drop of value is his forage program.

At first glance, you'd say the Kerr program is old-fashioned. His steers eat grass in the summer, and corn silage and chopped hay in the winter, and don't go to market until they are 26 to 28 months old. He sees no place for high-powered rations and forced feeding. In fact, he doesn't give them a kernel of grain during their entire life. The

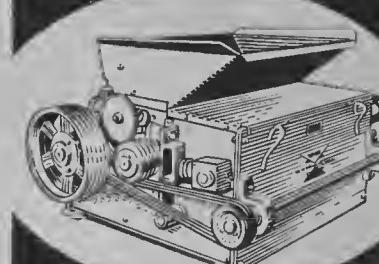
only nutrients he buys for them are salt and bone meal.

But right there the parallel stops. For while George is growing steers on grass and corn silage, it's a different kind of grass and silage than was grown by farmers a generation ago. The herd is a different size too—he finishes more than 100 steers a year.

ACTUALLY Kerr's scheme is a low-labor, low-cost one. It's a well-planned deliberate one, too, that requires a precise cropping program.

Look at his grass program, for instance. Eight years ago, he bought a 95-acre clay farm near his home place, to use as a grass farm. He tore out the cross-fences and seeded the entire farm to timothy, fescue,

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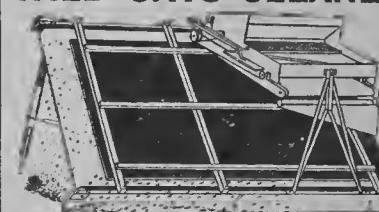
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[Guide photos]
"Trefoil's good for pastures without careful management," says Kerr. This field grazed a steer an acre in June.

orchard, and birdsfoot trefoil. Now, he grazes 100 2-year-old steers there for 3 months each spring and summer—more than 1 steer to the acre.

By early August, when the pasture begins to fade, the cattle are ready for market. Last year, he sold 83 steers off the field on August 12. Average weight was 1,240 lb., and on the rail they graded 68 reds, 11 blues, and only 4 commercials.

How come? First of all, George gives plenty of credit to his favorite pasture plant—trefoil.

"It's the only clover we've got that will thrive and spread under the poor care that this kind of a field gets," he says. "We only see the steers about once a week. We can't take time in the summer to pay them a daily visit and move them from field to field to make better use of the grass."

Under these conditions, the trefoil has taken hold and flourished to produce lush grazing. "Of course you must have patience to grow trefoil," Kerr adds, "because trefoil is a slow starter. You won't see much sign of it for the first couple of years after seeding."

There's another reason too, why those steers fatten and grade so well, without special grain rations. It involves Kerr's corn program. He grows grain varieties of corn now. They mature early enough for the ears to be ripe on the stalks before the crop goes into the silo.

As a result, while the calves and steers get no purchased grain during winter, but all the silage they will eat, in effect, they are getting grain. Those ears of corn represent the



These steers pictured in June were for market in August without grain.

cheapest grain a person can grow. As a result, the calves grow well during their first winter. They grow and maintain good fleshing during their second winter too, and are then ready to go to grass and come to market finish on good pasture during their final 3 months.

To balance up his farm program, Kerr maintains a 50-cow Hereford herd. This provides him with about 25 steer calves a year, to add to the 75 he buys each fall. The cows can make use of rough pasture around the farm, too. And in winter, they clean up the silage and hay left by the calves each day, practically eliminating waste.—D.R.B. V



Cutting Heifer Losses

ABOUT 65 per cent of all female calves born are needed for replacements in a dairy herd, and death losses between birth and first calving average 20 per cent. Dr. R. David Clark of the Lethbridge Research Station, Alta., says these figures show the importance of careful attention to the rearing of young stock.

At Lethbridge, Holstein dairy heifers are raised on a limited amount of whole milk for 4 weeks, and receive calf starter containing 21 per cent protein for the first 16

weeks of age, plus alfalfa hay free-choice. They are allowed to nurse their dams for 3 days to obtain essential colostrum. From 3 days to 4 weeks they are fed 6 to 8 lb. of whole milk daily and a maximum of 4 lb. of calf starter. Then calves are weaned abruptly, but continue with starter until they are 16 weeks old.

The starter is either a commercial one, or a mixture of 25 lb. oats, 20 lb. barley, 15 lb. wheat bran, 32 lb. linseed meal, 5 lb. molasses, 2 lb. bonemeal, and 1 lb. cobalt-iodized salt. The calves are allowed all the top-quality alfalfa hay and clean water they want. At 16 weeks the feed is changed to a concentrate

DAIRYING

containing 14 per cent protein and alfalfa hay or pasture.

Calves are kept in clean, individual pens until 16 weeks, during which they consume 150 to 200 lb. of whole milk, 300 lb. of starter, and 180 lb. of alfalfa hay. They are also dehorned during this time, and vaccinated against Bang's disease before 6 months of age.

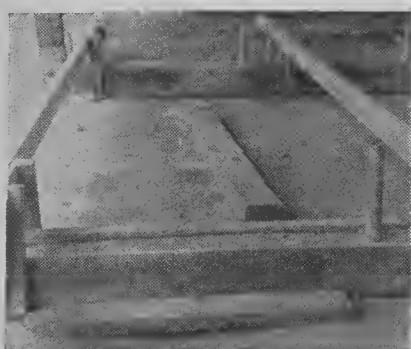
Dairy calves raised under this simple system have shown satisfactory body growth and milk production during the past 10 years at Lethbridge. There have been no death losses among calves on test from 3 days old to completion at 12 months. Heifers have averaged 710 lb. at a year old, indicating that growth was not retarded. ✓

Here's a Bedding Saver



Cows return to stalls after feeding.

Some big dairy operations, such as the McKennon farm at Snohomish, Wash., are modifying their loose housing sheds in what looks like a partial return to the stanchion-type barn. This has been accomplished by filling each loafing shed with individual stalls about 4 ft. by 8 ft. in size. In the first shed converted at McKennon's, the stalls



Stall under construction: pipes set in concrete anchor the wooden sides.

were made of wood, but steel panels were used for the remainder. To date, it's not known which is better. Each row of stalls is separated from its adjacent alley by an 8-in. concrete curb.

"We believe the stalls offer several advantages over our previous open housing," said owner William C. McKennon. "They conserve a large portion of the bedding. The cows are much cleaner too, espe-

cially around the udder. Consequently, less time is needed to wash them in the parlor. And we expect cleaner milk and a lower bacteria count to result. Stalls protect udders from injury by cows stepping on them. This is especially important when the pen contains a cow in heat."

Stall sections can't be removed for cleaning. However, this isn't considered a drawback. Because of the small dimensions of each stall and a baffle board in front of the cow,

most of the manure lands in the alley behind. Any small amount landing in the rear of a pen can be easily raked back into the alley. Cows choose their own stalls and return there after feeding.—C.V.F. ✓

Four Ways To Improve Herd

IT'S not by chance that milk and butter production has increased since dairy herd improvement tests were introduced. Dave Ewart, supervisor of dairy herd improvement in Saskatchewan, lists four reasons for improvement:

- Stricter culling.
- Better feeding.
- Improved type of dairy cattle.
- Greater use of artificial insemination.

Mr. Ewart says that dairymen just can't afford to have low-producing cows, owing to the high cost of labor-saving devices, such as bulk tanks, pipeline milkers, and barn cleaners.

Remember, too, that type and production go hand in hand. Dairymen are making greater use of artificial insemination to improve the type of dairy cow. ✓

Stable your cows in Beatty steel stalls for as little as \$14.95 per cow:

A cow that is dirty, uncomfortable or unhealthy cannot give you all the milk she should. Beatty Sanitary Steel Stalls are developed by Beatty's barn specialists through 85 years of continuous research and testing to help you have the most profitable return from your investment of time and money. They're available with either stanchion or chain tie.

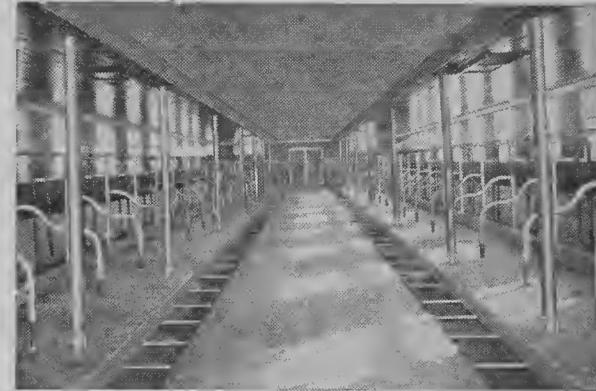
For as low as \$14.95 per cow, you can have Beatty Steel Stalls and a modern stable planned free by Beatty engineers. Beatty Steel Stalls are built to last; cannot slip, twist or loosen. Partitions are guaranteed for life not to rust out at the floorline. Beatty Steel Stalls are easy to keep clean, help you control and eliminate disease.

Beatty Steel Stalls and low-cost pens save you time and labour, help keep your cows comfortable and contented, whether they're large or small... actually help increase production from your herd.

The Beatty Steel Stall is just one example of Beatty's low-cost, common-sense approach to barn mechanization that will lead to years of efficient service. Your local Beatty agent can help you plan and install this kind of labour-saving Beatty equipment that will pay for itself and show a handsome profit! For instance, Beatty's Steel Stalls will help you maintain the sanitary conditions that result in a higher grade of milk that brings better prices and bigger profits.

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120 pages crammed with facts and figures; photographs of 100 modern stable interiors. Full details are given on cow-comfort steel stalls, reinforced steel partitions, adjustable stanchions,



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Lot _____ Concession or Range _____

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Don't Throw Feed Away

WHEN the price of fowl dropped, the practice of culling went into a decline. Some years back, while poultry meat was more valuable, it was a paying proposition to go into your poultry pen and spend an hour going over the

birds and selling off those you knew were not producing. But the incentive is gone when you realize that the birds you take out will bring only 5 to 10 cents a pound.

However, the fact remains that it is poor business to waste any feed

What DID Christ Mean: "...UPON THIS ROCK?"

Present-day Christians disagree sharply as to what Our Lord meant when He said to Peter:

"Thou are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

Jesus, some contend, was not thinking of Peter as the "rock" on which His church was to be built. The Church, as they see it, was not intended to be a visible, humanly controlled institution, but an invisible society of the faithful. All who believe in Christ would be members; their only guide and governor in spiritual matters would be the Bible.

This was not, however, the interpretation placed upon the Savior's words by the disciples who heard them first-hand. For as the Bible clearly relates, they *did* build a visible church and they *did* acknowledge Peter as its head. And they *did* claim for it, the right to act with God's authority in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life.

When the need arose to elect a successor to Judas, the Apostles met as a corporate body and chose Matthias. When a minor doctrinal dispute developed, the disciples gathered at a council in Jerusalem to discuss it. In the final decision they deferred to the authority of Peter, one of many instances in which they acknowledged Peter's headship.

Just as Jesus had assembled around Himself a body of His elect, in the persons of the Apostles and disciples, these first missionaries of the Faith expanded the priesthood by ordaining bishops and elders in all the churches throughout their domain. In each case those chosen were commissioned . . . just as Christ had commissioned the disciples . . . to "Preach the word . . . to speak and exhort, and to rebuke with all authority."

The need for a visible Church is clearly manifest in Christ's instructions to the disciples to "Baptize them in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." An invisible church obviously could not dispense this Sacrament. Likewise, how could He say: "If thy brother sin against thee . . . appeal to the church," if there were no visible church to which such appeal might be made?

In numerous passages of the Bible, notably in the Acts of the Apostles, the nature and authority of Christ's Church are sharply defined. A careful study of them may convince you . . . as it has millions of others . . . that the Catholic Church of today is the visible, organized, authoritative counterpart of the Apostolic Church.

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on birds that will lay only the odd egg, or none at all. This is particularly important when poultry feeds are more expensive and, therefore, it will pay flock owners to save whatever they can by culling.



Capacity test, hand between keel and pelvic bone, shows bird earning keep.



In this case, a capacity test shows that the chicken is a non-producer.

A simple way to take out a good percentage of the cullish birds is to be hard-hearted when housing them in their laying quarters. Those birds coming in from the range looking small and miserable will not improve in the confinement of the laying house. There is nothing more unkind to the weak than a flock of chickens and, although a bird has managed to scrape by on the range where it could get away from the other birds, it will be destined to a life of sitting on the roost, or hiding in a corner. This bird could fall victim to, and infect other birds with, a disease the balance of the flock would have been hardy enough to throw off.

During the laying season, if your production is not what it should be, a culling may be in order. Perhaps the simplest method is to round the birds up during daylight hours and release them, one by one, leaving the doubtful birds to be examined more closely. The producers will be vigorous and bright-eyed, and have large healthy-looking combs.

SEVERAL tests can be made on the ones you feel might be non-producers. A bird that is thin, limp and much lighter in weight than the rest of the flock should be taken out. If, after examining the head and feeling the body, you are still doubtful, two quick tests can be made on the business end of the hen—the pelvic and capacity tests.

When a hen commences laying, two pliable bones on either side of the vent grow apart to allow for the passage of the egg. In the pelvic test, a hen is earning her keep if the

flock owner can place two or three fingers upright between the pelvic tips. The capacity test is taken with the full hand held sideways between the tip of the keel or breastbone and the pelvic bone tips. It should be possible to put the width of your hand in this position. While using these methods, the condition of the vent should be taken into consideration—if this looks elastic and moist it is likely the bird is producing.

Culling can also be done at night while the birds are on the roost. A flashlight will pick out those birds that are not in top condition and the same tests can be performed as in daylight. It will be noted that the back rows of the roosts will yield the most culls since this type of bird is usually the first to bed.

Broody hens are another source of unprofitable boarders. Due to weather conditions, housing, or strain of birds, there may be a run of broodiness in the flock. We have always followed the practice of removing these birds as soon as they show up. In most cases a broody hen, if cured, will lay a short clutch only to become broody again. If you do keep such a hen separate until she is cured of her broodiness, it might be wise to slip a colored leg band on before putting her back in the pen. Should she show up again in 4 or 5 weeks, you can have her for Sunday dinner. We have records from a Random Sample Test showing one hen who became broody November 23, January 8, February 16, April 9 and May 28.

A high percentage of the culls can be removed by keeping a constant daily watch for those that stay on the roosts at feeding time and show no interest in coming down to eat or drink, or those that may be sitting on the floor listlessly. Keep only healthy, vigorous birds in your poultry house.—L. Kay.



Good producer—strong head, bright eyes, and also average body weight.



A poor bird with weak head, poorly developed comb, and body is thin.



and —

Chemical Control of Tartary Buckwheat

TWO new chemicals, Banvel D and Banvel T, are being tested for control of Tartary buckwheat. Banvel D in particular shows definite promise. Although not yet available commercially, this compound was recommended for *trial use* by the National Weed Committee, Western Section, at their annual meeting in Edmonton recently.

In tests on Thatcher wheat at the University of Alberta, Dr. W. H. Vanden Born found that 8 oz. of Banvel D per acre gave a 97 per cent weed kill. There were only three Tartary buckwheat plants left in the treated area for every 100 in the check plot. When 16 oz. per acre was used the weed was eliminated.

Comparison of grain yield shows 24.8 bushels per acre for the untreated plot, and 45.6 bushels per acre for the area treated with Banvel D (at the 16-oz. per acre rate). The high rate may have caused a slight delay in maturity, reports Dr. Vanden Born, but only a few deformed heads were noted. These were not serious and did not materially affect the yield. When the crops were sprayed, the wheat was in the 3- to 4-leaf stage and the buckwheat had 3 true leaves. The chemical will have to undergo further testing before it is approved for sale.

At some prairie elevator points last fall as much as 55 per cent of the wheat was marked "rejected" because of the amount of Tartary buckwheat seed it contained. The cash loss to producers from only five elevator points totalled over \$65,000. On many farms, yield losses caused by Tartary buckwheat infestations were as high as 10 per cent. V

System for Irrigated Pastures

IT'S a problem to know how to spread yields from irrigated pastures more evenly through the season. Dr. D. B. Wilson of the Lethbridge Research Station puts it this way. Animals may have more feed than they can conveniently use during the lush growth periods, and as the crop ages, it becomes less palatable and drops in nutritive value.

Previous attempts to solve the dilemma have been to start grazing early in the spring while the grass is short, or to divide pasture into four fields and graze each lightly in turn. But, says Dr. Wilson, grazing early in the spring and leaving a high stubble from light grazing are both detrimental to yield. He suggests a different approach.

It is still a good idea to divide the pasture into four, but it is not neces-

sary to turn the stock in at too early a date. Start cattle normally in the spring on the first field, and when they have grazed it down to a height of 2 or 3 in., turn them into the second field. By this time, the other two fields are growing fast and the question is how to keep up with them. Don't try it, says Dr. Wilson. Let the grass grow close to the hay



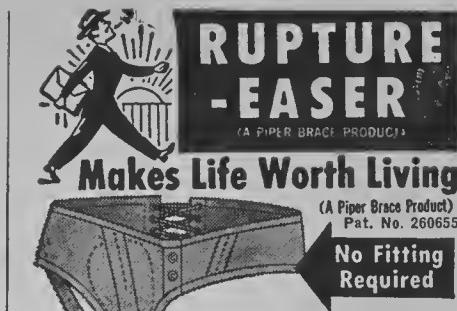
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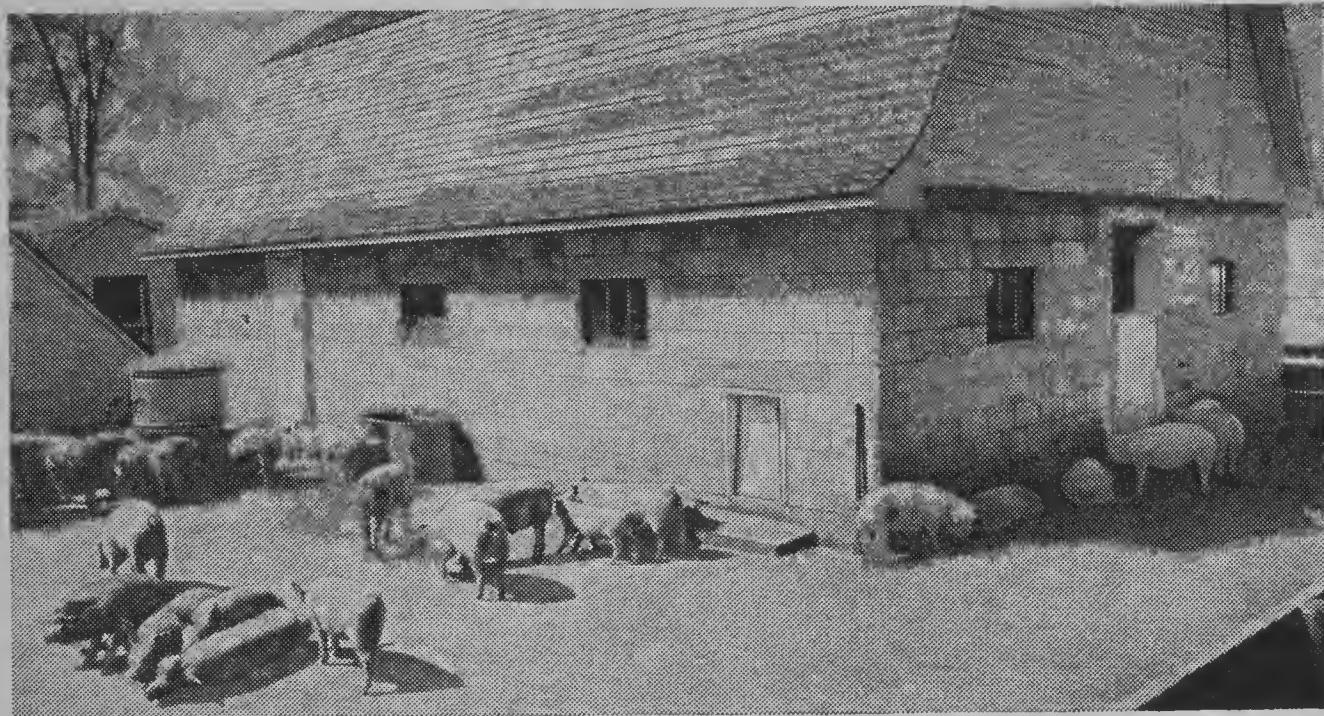
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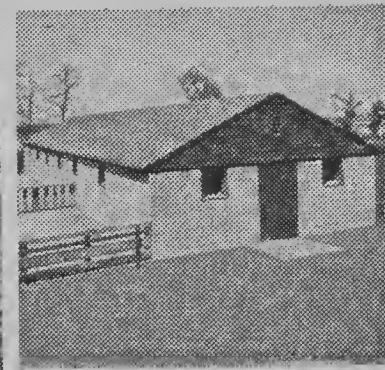
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SOILS AND CROPS

stage and turn in the mower. Cut fields 3 and 4 and store the hay. Then follow the usual routine for the remainder of the year, rotating cattle through fields 1, 2, 3, and 4 in turn.

With this method, when the grass begins to fail later in the season, there will be a good supply of nutritious hay to supplement it. ✓

New Flax Is Rust-Resistant

A NEW rust-resistant variety of flax, known as Cree, has been licensed by the Canada Department of Agriculture. About 1,000 bushels will be available to registered seed growers in the Prairie Provinces.

Cree matures uniformly and is 2 or 3 days earlier than Redwood. It has yielded better than Redwood on black and gray soils of Alberta, and equally well on other soils. It is resistant to all North American races of flax rust, is resistant to wilt, and appears to have more tolerance to pasmo than Redwood has.

Up to 20 bushels may be bought at \$8 per bushel by applying to A. B. Masson, Seed Office, 518 Federal Building, Winnipeg 1, Man. ✓

A New Feed Barley Ready

JUBILEE is the name of a new feed barley developed at the University of Saskatchewan. Prof. W. J. White says it has proved superior in yield to standard varieties, and is particularly good in dark brown, black, and gray soil zones.

Jubilee is resistant to current races of rust, it has moderately strong straw of medium height, and is slightly later than most other varieties except Husky. It has a nodding head and long, smooth awns. Jubilee, like all other varieties in Western Canada except Keystone, is susceptible to loose smut.

Registered 2nd generation, grade 1 or 2 seed is obtainable through elevator agents, or from Saskatchewan Seed Grain Co-operative, Moose Jaw, Sask. ✓

Wind Erosion Calls for Special Care

SUMMERFALLOWING in a dry season needs extra care to prevent wind erosion on exposed fields. B. J. Gorby of the Brandon Experimental Farm, Man., warns that such tillage practices as working at speed with a disc-type implement tends to bury whatever trash there may be, and pulverizes the soil excessively.

Depending on the weed population, he suggests that summerfallowing work should be delayed until the soil becomes moist, because the greatest clod formation on the soil surface can take place at that time. Where possible, use a cultivator-type implement and reduce speed of operation. Make every effort to maintain a cloddy surface with trash protection. ✓

horticulture

Disease Takes Canada's Sweet Chestnuts

by ARTHUR S. GOODWIN



Field officer David Adlam and John Jager take a note of fallen trees and weathered stumps resulting from the blight on Jager's farm, Eden, Ont.

THE spreading chestnut tree has all but vanished from the southern Ontario countryside. A generation of citizens has grown to adulthood without once catching a glimpse of this former forest beauty. Stark trunks of fallen chestnut trees, or stumps with a few pitiful living shoots, mark the visit of a deadly blight.

The disease appears to have emerged from Asia. It was observed as a curiosity at the New York Zoological Park in 1904. The blight quietly moved about the country and by the 1940's its victims were



A rare, healthy sweet chestnut is admired by G. Wimbush, Talbotville.

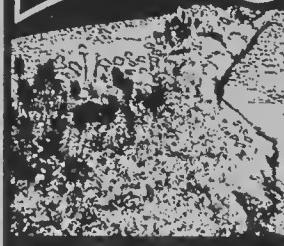
Ontario watershed authority tries blight-resistant Chinese variety

found all over the sweet chestnut range of the continent. The trees that once produced magnificent lumber, that graced many a home, died on the stump. The gay autumn childhood pastime of gathering the porcupine-spined burrs for their tasty, meaty nuts was gone.

A faint ray of hope remains that some tree will show some marked resistance to the blight. Determined men have searched the rolling hills and neglected woodlots looking for saplings that somehow survived the seemingly certain destruction.

Some of the trees discovered carried but few burrs, and many of these lacked fertile nuts on which

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HORTICULTURE

the future of the species depends. The few trees found are guarded lest the species meets the doom of



Adlam shows some Chinese chestnuts distributed in Otter Creek watershed.

the passenger pigeon, another of North America's losses.

In a move to repair the damage, the Otter Creek Conservation Authority has developed a chestnut

tree replacement program. As a substitute for the native tree, the blight resistant Chinese chestnut has been planted by the hundreds on selected sites along the watershed.

David Adlam, Authority field officer, reports that it will take several years to determine the success or failure of the experiment. Perhaps, with luck, chestnut trees will once more appear to grace the landscape. V

Weeds in Spruce and Pine

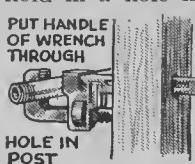
TO control annual weeds in spruce and pine nurseries, apply simazin at 2 lb. active ingredient per acre in the fall. This will control spring weeds and the suppressive effect will continue into late summer, according to Dr. R. Grover of the Indian Head Forest Nursery Station, Sask.

Simazin was applied November 7, 1960, on 3-year-old plants of Colorado spruce, white spruce and Scots pine in clay soils, and under irrigation. The treated and untreated plots were free of weeds at the time. The young spruce and pine were not damaged by the herbicide. Tests are being made at Indian Head for shelterbelt plantings. V

WORKSHOP

Vise for Pipes

A pipe wrench held in a hole in a wood girder makes a sturdy vise to hold pipe. This is especially useful when you need to do some threading and a regular pipe vise is not available.—H.M., Pa. V



Welding Small Parts

This handy tool will easily hold small parts in place while they are being welded, soldered, etc. It consists of an 8" length of $\frac{3}{4}$ " shafting, with 2 pointed legs at one end, and a steel arm at the other. The weight of the arm holds metal pieces together where welding clamps would be inconvenient. Parts to be welded could be laid on a metal part of the workbench, while a blow from a hammer makes the pointed legs sink into the wooden part of the bench, or into a block of wood placed under them. The three legs are 4" high.—H.J.M., Fla. V



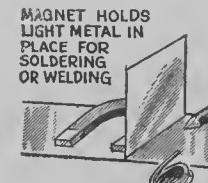
PIPE OVER HEAD OF PICK AXE ENABLES WORK IN CONFINED SPACE

Tight-Corner Pick

Most of us, now and then, find it necessary to do some digging in a tight space—and it's hard work. When there isn't enough room to swing a pick comfortably, don't swing it at all. Just remove the pick head and slip it into a pipe, as shown in the sketch. You are then ready to go ahead without interference. With a pick of this type, you can work in almost any corner. —P.P.W., Alta. V

Metal Holder

A U-shaped magnet from an old telephone or tractor magneto is very useful for holding small pieces of metal in place for welding or soldering. The sketch will give you the idea. These U-shaped magnets can also be broken in half for other uses around the garage or shop. Line the inside of the metal





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Are you planning your 1962 farm program? Good management begins with the plans you make for the year ahead.

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Frozen Fuel Lines

WHEN protecting a tractor's cooling system against freezing, don't forget other places where water can freeze in the fuel system.

The most important defense is to keep water out of the system. Cool temperatures condense moisture from

the air in the top of the fuel tank and this water settles to the bottom. From there it can travel through the fuel system, settle in low spots in the fuel line and at the base of the fuel filter housing.

To reduce the risk, fill the fuel tank at the end of each day's work and thus drive out all moisture-laden air

But, according to Caterpillar engineers, some moisture will get into the system in spite of this. If there is a drain at the base of the fuel tank, drain it at the end of the day, in freezing weather, after giving the water time to settle. If there is a drain at the base of the fuel filter housing, and a sump to trap the moisture, drain the sump at the end of each day. Trapped air may have to be bled from the system after moisture is drained.

Use winter grade fuels to assure free flow, and watch the pressure gauge closely in cold weather. It tells when filters are becoming clogged. V

Farmers Report on Sharing

INTERESTED in sharing equipment with neighbors? Here's what farmers of the Waterloo County (Ont.) Farm Business Management Association have discovered:

- Total machinery cost on their farms is as much as \$900 less than on farms that don't share machinery. Cost is \$20 per acre instead of \$25, or \$38 per animal instead of \$49.
- Crop indexes are just as good, and several farmers are as much as 18 per cent above average.
- Two to four co-operators are the right number. More members make

schedules too hard to set, particularly in harvesting.

• Usually, it's best for one man to look after a machine and to run it on all farms.

• Keep strict records of time and costs; hold meetings from time to time to settle expenses and other details; be businesslike.

• More and better equipment is usually purchased when the cost is spread over several farms.

• A good understanding of the Golden Rule and some tolerance are essential. V

Stanchion Squeeze

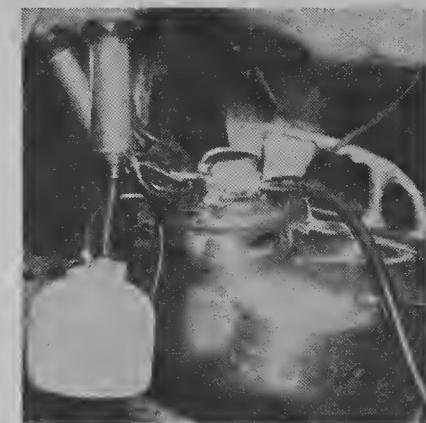


Guide photo
An old cow stanchion makes a useful squeeze for cattle. Browning Hooper of Sperling, Man., added a bar with a curved section, which swings over the front of the stanchion to hold a steer's head still during dehorning.



Quarter Milker

To overcome the problem of removing and segregating infected milk before it reaches the milking machine or pipeline, this quarter milker can be used with any machine or pipeline system. It cuts out time spent in hand-stripping, and promotes healing because cows are milked completely at normal let-down time and have the gentle massage of the milking machine. The polyethylene receptacle holds 2½ quarts and is easily attached to the milking machine. (VioBin [Canada] Ltd.) (361) V



Vertical Laminate

Known as Formica V-100, this new type of plastic laminate is designed for vertical surfaces as decorative material. It is thinner and more flexible than standard grades of laminates used for covering tables and counters, but is said to be as durable and easy to clean. It could be used on walls, partitions, doors, cabinets, furniture, or other vertical surfaces found in the home, and it comes in patterns, colors, and wood-grains. The slightly pebbled surface cuts down glare. (Cyanamid of Canada Ltd.) (362) V



For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellies Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man., giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as-(17).

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THE BIG GAMBLE

by
RAY
PETERSON

Illustrated
by
JIM WALKER

Mr. Smithers promised me the popcorn if I won the toss . . . and I agreed to stop bothering him if I lost.



"FIFTEEN under the G!" The caller's voice hurtled above the noisy hum of the crowded hall. My eyes roved over the long rows of tables surrounded by players, each peering hopefully at a small square of cardboard. In a detached sort of way, the thought struck me that if anything was a common denominator to all ages, to all races, it was this will-o'-the-wisp hope of obtaining something for nothing. Then, belatedly, I glanced at my own bingo card. The call fitted. I slid a counter into place.

My wife's hand gripped my arm. "Why Ron! What luck! You've only got one to go. Aren't you excited? All I've got on mine are a few scattered numbers."

I smiled. My wife's green eyes danced. She teetered on the edge of her seat, almost holding her breath, so anxious not to miss the next call. I knew that from now on, until bingo was called, she'd be playing my card as well as her own.

One dollar for the chance of winning a crisp, one hundred dollar bill, my card with only one number needed to make bingo, and I wasn't really excited. Now, I don't mean to imply that I couldn't find lots of uses for that much extra cash. Far from it.

They say that every person is good for one supreme gamble in his lifetime. If so, I made mine a long time ago. I can remember it so plainly that every game of chance since then has been a pale, emotionless thing.

I can remember my stake in the venture, too. One penny! That's not much by today's inflated standards, for pennies have been stripped of all real substance. Of course, in handfuls, they can

help to create a futile, but attractive curve in one's pocketbook, or serve as a sort of receipt for the roll of bills the supermarket gobble up on the week end grocery order.

It was all so different when I was ten years old. Then a penny was a very tangible thing to me. For instance, in Mr. Smithers' roadside store, it would buy a big stick of bubble gum, or a candy cane, or a fruit-flavored lollipop twice the size of a silver dollar.

Money was a precious thing in those days, and my sole capital was a rather battered one-cent piece. I had been saving it for something special.

The mail was skimpy that morning, just a thin, lone letter. As I fished it from the mailbox, and started up the lane to our farm house, I noticed that it was addressed to Mother. Since it wasn't stamped, I knew that it must be from someone in our own district.

Mother had just finished washing the breakfast dishes. She wiped her hands on her apron before she opened the letter.

She pursed her lips. "Mrs. Jenko is having a birthday party for Marion. It's to start about two o'clock this afternoon. She says that if you can walk down, Mr. Jenko will bring you home in the evening."

I looked curiously at Mother. The few, fine lines on her forehead had sprung into prominence, and she was twisting a corner of her apron with nervous fingers.

"Don't you want me to go?" I asked. I felt a sudden, sinking feeling. I liked to visit the Jenkos even though there weren't any boys at their house to play with. Mrs. Jenko was the best cook anywhere. Seemed like she always had something

extra-good to eat, even on ordinary days. And a party, like Marion's, today, would be really something. There'd be ice cream for sure, homemade candy, and some of that wonderful poppy seed cake that I had tasted only at Mrs. Jenko's.

"Of course, you can go, Ron," Mother said. "It's just—" her voice trailed off for a moment, then surged back determinedly. "It's just that I wish that I could do things up proud like Mrs. Jenko does, at least once in a while. I don't know how the Jenkos can manage so well in these hard times. No one else seems to be able to."

"Oh! Don't worry, Mother!" I said. "Geel You're way prettier than Mrs. Jenko, and I bet that you could cook better than her if you had all the stuff she has to use."

MOTHER smiled, and blinked her eyes quickly. A hand flew out, lightning fast, and she tweaked the end of my nose.

"Young man, you're becoming as bad as your father. Throwing compliments all over the place when you want something."

"But I mean it," I protested.

"Yes," Mother said. "And I revelled in every word of it. Now, enough of this nonsense. If you're going to that party, I'll have to fix dinner real early. And you'll have to hurry if you're going to be ready. Remember, you've got two miles to walk. C'mon! Wash up, and change your clothes."

I started for the washstand, and a sudden thought struck home

"Mother! Since it's a birthday party, shouldn't I take a gift?"

(Please turn to next page)

"What?" Mother's face was strained again. "No-o-o! I don't think it's expected of you. In fact, I think that is why Mrs. Jenko waited until the last minute to ask you. She wanted to make sure that there wouldn't be time to order anything. It's a good thing, too, because there isn't a cent in the house."

Mother sighed. "I still wish I knew how they wiggle in all these extras. You know, I asked Mrs. Jenko once, and she just laughed in that pleasant way of hers, and said, 'We lived on such a tiny bit back in Russia that

things here in Canada seem easy. Mebbe you Old Canadians are just a bit spoiled'."

"Look! Mother!" I said, "I've still got that penny I found along the road last week. I could stop in at the store on my way to Jenko's and get something with that, couldn't I?"

"Oh! But it's all you've got," Mother objected. "And it wouldn't get much, you know." Then, watching me closely, she smiled. "Of course, even a small present is much nicer than none at all."

Only two miles of dirt road, hazy

with dust, can be a long way, especially when a July sun seems to have singled it out as its very own strip of countryside. I was so excited at the prospects of a party, though, that it took quite a while for the heat to soak in. It wasn't until I had trudged the first mile and caught sight of Smithers' weatherbeaten store, that I noticed how hot the soles of my feet had become. My throat felt mighty dry, and my eyes were sore from squinting against the sun's glare. I began to worry, too, about what I would be able to buy with my penny. I suddenly seemed to be able to recognize that lone penny in the way Mother had seen it.

The cowbell strung on the inside of the door clanged stridently as I pushed into the store. Mr. Smithers was sitting behind the single counter, reading a newspaper. He folded the paper carefully, placed it on the counter. He teetered back on two legs of his chair, his head cocked to one side like a watchful crow. His voice, harsh and thin, rasped so loudly that I jumped.

"Whatcha want? Boy?"

Mother always claimed that Mr. Smithers was like a scabby potato, perfectly good, once you got under the thick hide. I wasn't arguing with her philosophy. I just didn't know how to dig that deep. I swallowed a couple of times. Finally, I managed to raise my voice above a whisper.

"I want to buy a birthday present."

Mr. Smithers gazed at me with cold eyes that never seemed to blink. His frosty eyebrows climbed.

I dug frantically through my pockets, held the penny up before his accusing glare. "I got money. My own, too."

"So I see," Mr. Smithers said dryly, his eyes fixed on me.

I stared at the confectionery stuff on the counter. Most of it was in big, square jars. There was one, half full of jelly beans, another with mixed candy. Farther along, I could see peppermints, and some delicious-looking chocolate drops. I drummed my penny on the edge of the counter, trying to make up my mind. I dismissed the all-day suckers. The bubble-gum box was empty, and the licorice plugs and pipes looked sort of dried out. For a moment, I almost settled on jawbreakers — two for a cent. Then, I spied the pyramid of popcorn boxes. Prizes inside, too. Instantly, I knew that was what I wanted. There was a terrible catch, though. I could see a five-cent sign printed very plainly on each box.

"Uh! Have you got any smaller boxes of popcorn? Ones that cost only one cent?"

Mr. Smithers shook his head.

DISHEARTENED, I walked the length of the counter. I examined each jar and carton again, but all I could really think of was that popcorn. Against it, anything my penny could buy was a paltry thing.

Mr. Smithers' voice, emotionless as ever, cut into my thoughts. "Who's this birthday present for?"

I looked up, mumbled, "Marion Jenko. I'm on my way to her birthday party."

"Humph!" Mr. Smithers grunted. "Don't give you much time to collect money, does it?" His small, hard

eyes probed into mine. "Seein' what it's for, I guess I could charge a box of popcorn against your Pa's bill."

The temptation was almost overwhelming. Then, even as the words of agreement trembled on my lips, I shook my head violently.

"No! I can't do that. Mother said that I mustn't ever charge things unless her or Dad told me to."

A look of approval seemed to flicker for an instant on Mr. Smithers' face. "Well, mebbe I could give you an extra-special deal on those licorice plugs. Say three for a cent."

I shook my head again. I was wishing that I hadn't stopped at the store at all. I should have known that one old penny wasn't worth anything. I felt like running for home without ever going to Marion's party.

Mr. Smithers cleared his throat. His chair rocked back on all four legs with a crash. He stood up, leaned over the counter.

"Now! Since you want this popcorn for such a special occasion, I'll make you a proposition." His voice sank to a confidential whisper. "Of course, you understand that I can't just give it to you. That would be poor business. If I started giving things to one, I'd have to give to others, too. Pretty soon I'd be broke. So here's what I'll do. I'll toss you for that popcorn."

"You mean, flip my penny in the air, and see who gets heads or tails?"

"That's right," Mr. Smithers said. He reached into a jar and selected a red lollipop. He laid it on the counter. Then he plucked the penny from my outstretched fingers.

"I'll throw this penny, and if you win the call, I'll give you the popcorn for one cent. If you lose, you take this one-cent sucker and quit bothering me. Okay?"

IDIDN'T hesitate. "Okay!" I said, and I could feel a tide of excitement roiling through every drop of blood in my body.

"What you want? Heads, or tails?" "Heads!" I said quickly.

I held my breath as Mr. Smithers flipped the penny high into the air. A sunbeam caught it at the height of its climb, transformed it into a disc of pure gold. It came down on the counter, rolled on its edge.

Mr. Smithers' hand seemed to hesitate, then nudged the penny over. His face broke into a grin.

I leaned on tip toes, my heart pounding.

"It's heads!" I gasped. Suddenly I felt weak. I grabbed the counter top with both hands and hung on tightly until the trembling in my legs slowed down a bit. Never had I experienced a more suspenseful moment.

"Ron! Ron! An elbow nudged into my ribs, and my wife's voice rang in my ears. "What's wrong with you? You've got it! You've got it! You've got Bingo!"

I laughed, and blended my "Bingo!" with her soprano cry of triumph. But the excitement sparkling my voice came more from the past than from the present. I smiled into Marion's eyes. The dancing green fire of them made me think of the ring, with the green glass stone, that had been the prize in her box of birthday popcorn.

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See your Credit Advisor early. As the appraisal of farm property cannot be made while the ground is frozen or under snow, and as Credit Advisors are necessarily engaged in appraisal work during most of the open season, farmers who are considering applying for loans during 1962 should get in touch with their local Federal Farm Credit Advisor as early as possible after the new year in order to discuss their credit requirements with him.

For a copy of our pamphlet "CREDIT FOR PROFIT" and the name and address of your local FARM CREDIT ADVISOR, write the branch office which serves your province—

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Home and Family

The Country Guide's magazine for rural women



The old frame school building, shingled and given a new entrance, (at left in 1941) is still part of the Van Slyeks' contemporary home.



"All Things... Become New"

THINGS become new in many ways. A visit to Fred and Wyn Van Slyck's farm home near Dugald, Man., brought this home to me. It seemed an appropriate theme to consider as we start into a new year.

The Van Slyck home is both old and new. Their first home, still a part of their house, was a school building built in 1888. Making the frame building into their present home was a long and gradual process which the Van Slycks accomplished in stages.

"All through the years," Mrs. Van Slyck told me, "as soon as Fred was through outdoors, we'd start to work indoors on the house. If we went to town, it was because we'd run out of hardware or supplies."

Today, following recent renovation which involved changing the roof line, adding rooms, and redoing the interior of the kitchen and dining area, the Van Slyck home is slickly modern.

"I remember when I had to walk across a field and over the road to the barn for a drop of water," says Wyn, "and I also remember Fred saying, after pricing plumbing installation, that 'I can carry a lot of water for \$1,500'."

Homemaking itself was transformed into something new after the kitchen was remodeled. For six weeks without the use of the room at all, Wyn reverted to the old woodstove. "When the kitchen was finished," Wyn laughs, "I couldn't get dinner or wash the dishes without the book." The kitchen had been re-equipped in the course

of remodeling because none of the old equipment would fit into the carefully planned compact layout.

The interior of their new-old house reflects Wyn's love for antiques. Family heirlooms and others she has sought out are displayed in places especially planned for them. With an instinct for building upon the old to develop the new, she reclaimed a parlor stove once owned by Fred's mother. The dismal, dusty castoff, which had been shoved away in an unused granary, now gleams with gold-spattered white paint in the front entrance to the house. For the new bedroom, she restored a hand-carved dresser and bedstead, and painstakingly laundered lace curtains first hung in the 19th century.

This year the Van Slycks must take a new look at their farm operation as well. A government floodway project, begun last year, took 540 acres from the 1,000-acre farm which they have had in grain. They have already resolved one problem created by the floodway. Thirty-foot spruce trees, planted long ago, were destined to fall in its path. Tall with age, they stand anew. Fred and Wyn transplanted the trees to their front yard and keep an anxious vigil for signs of success.

Today's new things age with tomorrow, and yesterday's old can become new. Each year has its January, and yet, with each January, the year itself is new.

*"...old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new."*

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17.



by GWEN LESLIE

This new bedroom, added in the most recent renovation, features furniture fashioned in the days long past. Mrs. Van Slyck refinished it.

Plastic filigree tile forms an airy divider above a common storage half-partition between the dining room and the kitchen. Mrs. Van Slyck at left.

Science Now Shrinks Piles Without Pain or Discomfort

Finds Substance That Relieves Pain
And Itching As It Shrinks Hemorrhoids

Toronto, Ont. (Special)—For the first time science has found a new healing substance with the ability to shrink hemorrhoids and to relieve pain and itching. Thousands have been relieved with this inexpensive substance right in the privacy of their own home without any discomfort or inconvenience.

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HANDICRAFTS

Canadiana

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Instructions for these Cuddly Bear Cardigans are given in Canadiana Leaflet No. 1002, price 25¢. The bear design is charted. These raglan sweaters, sizes 2, 4 and 6, may be knitted without design. Button or zipper closing.



The Rodeo Pullovers featured in Canadiana Leaflet No. 1008 may be knit to fit boys' and girls' sizes 8, 10 and 12. Follow charted design or knit the pullovers plain with round or turtle neck. Leaflet price 25¢.



A diamond design trims the pleasing deep yoke effect in these raglan-sleeved cardigans. Charted instructions are given in Canadiana Leaflet No. 1012, 25¢. Buttoned or zippered, sweaters may be knit in sizes 14, 16, 18 and 20.



Canadiana Leaflet No. 1019 offers raglan cardigans for the whole family in sizes 2 to 12 and 14 to 42. Button or zipper closing, pockets, and shawl or plain collar are optional. The leaflet features knitting helps. Leaflet price 25¢.

For handicraft patterns pictured above please address your order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man.

Artists Who Farm

These men differ in temperament and family role but both find country life essential to pursuit of their ideals

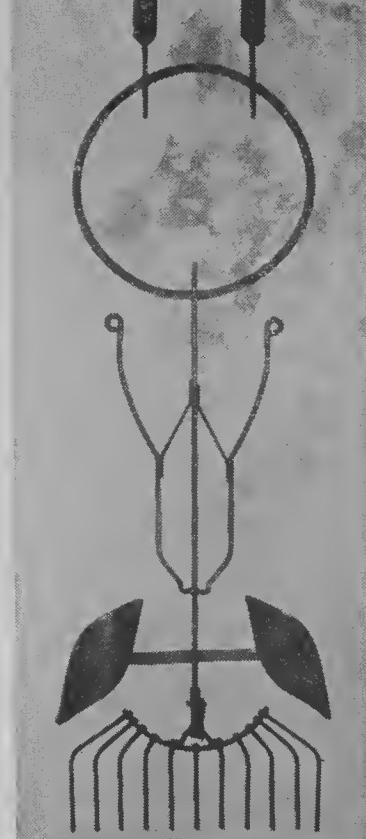
by GWEN LESLIE and ELVA FLETCHER

YOSEPH DRENTERS is a man with a mission. He's bent on sharing his fascination with Canada's past through the medium of sculpture. The Canada Council, whose purpose is encouragement of the arts, humanities and social sciences, endorsed his sincerity and talent in 1961 by awarding him a \$2,000 grant.

He is a man not easily described. In certain respects he appears to be an "Angry Young Man." You hear this in his voice, and see it in a kind of restrained violence which distinguishes some

hewn barn beam, wagon tongues and wheels — from stone, wood and weathered metal—he has forged a dramatic expression for his feelings. He says he's striving for truth and to capture something of the vital strength of those who first claimed this country for their own.

When I asked of the conflicting demands made by his farm chores and his growing art career, Yoseph replied: "Working at one makes me want more to work at the other." He feels the two are complementary.



Using relies of earlier days, Yoseph forges a new sculpture.



The Drenters' fine Holstein herd is a part of today's agriculture. Yoseph is active in the farm's twice-a-day chores and also lends a hand with the hay harvest.

pieces of his sculpture. In contrast, other works express a tender reverence.

Belgian-born, Yoseph emigrated to Canada with his family. His father had farmed before and Yoseph had been in training for the priesthood. In Canada, he worked two years in the Okanagan, then in a Yukon asbestos mine. He was in Vancouver when his family bought their 160-acre dairy farm at Eramosa, Ont. He soon rejoined them.

Yoseph is very much a part of the farm planning and daily work. He has helped to rebuild old farm buildings and to build new ones for the farm. Morning and evening he helps with the Holstein herd, and the busy haying season claims his time. But, generally he's able to spend the mid-day and evening hours in his studio. It's a few miles from his home in part of the historic old Rockwood Academy, boyhood school of such famous Canadians as Sir Adam Beck and A. S. Hardy.

In buying this building, Yoseph met two self-felt needs. One was, of course, a place to work. The other was a direct opportunity to commemorate earlier stages in Canada's history. He is in the process of returning the academy to landmark status. In the course of renovation, which includes the removal of dividing partitions to recreate the large areas of the original building, he uncovered blackboards of black mortar which he plans to restore. Eventually he hopes to make the building a museum.

Meanwhile, in the course of his growing as a man and an artist, Yoseph Drenters is giving his Canadian community a new awareness of its heritage. He sees the materials of art in his surroundings. When he doesn't, he seeks them out. From such strange-seeming artifacts as an old sea rack made by pioneers from local oak, a hand-

The returns from sales made at his first Toronto gallery showing enabled him to buy the academy building and its three acres. It is just enough land to whet his appetite for more—his own farm. At the same time there is a growing market for his sculpture and paintings.

Yoseph does not lack an outlet for his dynamic creativity. His need is for time—time to plan and to farm, to meditate and create. The Canada Council Award buys him a little time.

RAY PETERSON, of Tofield, Alta., is a writer by choice, a countryman at heart and a part-time city worker of necessity. And, if as has been suggested, there are five elements to the happy life — health, work, interests, friendships and the pursuit of an ideal—he's a happy man.

His home, a quarter-section bordering Alberta's Highway 14, 30 miles southeast of Edmonton, sits in a parklike community where the land rolls in tree-studded knolls and waterfowl nest on a nearby lake.

He and his wife, Kathryn, choose to live here for two basic reasons. Living in the country gives Ray the opportunity to be close to the outdoors and people he writes about; and it also provides the atmosphere of freedom he personally needs to pursue his career. There's another reason; the Petersons want to give their five children the opportunity to grow up in the country. They are firmly convinced that the youngsters need plenty of play room with a minimum of city-type distractions, a place where they can learn first-hand about the outdoors.

Ray grew up in the district at a time when a quarter-section farm was the average. He soon realized that a farm of this size couldn't support

a family. Neither was he certain he wanted to go into farming on a large scale. Anyway, he wanted to write.

He worked out a compromise: he put the farm into producing a hay crop which he sells; he adds to that income by working in Edmonton as a carpenter; and, during the winter, he occasionally lumberjacks in the heavily wooded country to the west. Although this arrangement means he must commute between home and city, he and Kathryn agree it's worth it.

"I'd hate to live in the city," Ray admits frankly. "I don't want Kathryn and the children to be hemmed in. I just don't think it's fair to them."

"The more I see of city life the less I'm attracted to it. Families there have homes, cars and lots of electrical appliances. But most of them never own any of these things outright. They're bogged down in debt trying to keep up with their neighbors. Here we own what you see—the land, our own home." He built their home himself. Now he's planning a studio building a few yards away.

Well-stocked bookcases and well-used books in the Peterson home confirm Ray's interest in the written word. While he's had several short stories published, he admits that the mail box more often gives out rejection slips than it does notices of acceptance. He claims the children are his best audience. When Kathryn reads his stories to them they react favorably to every effort.

Ray Peterson seems to have the components of a happy life: health, activities that permit him to be a part-time farmer; and, the opportunity to pursue his desire to write in a familiar setting. v



Country living gives Ray Peterson the right climate for his writing career.

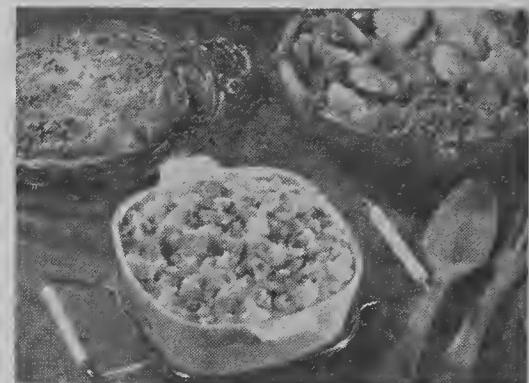
IN THE KITCHEN

Pastas form the base in a variety of

One Dish Meals

by GWEN LESLIE

Pasta products make taste-tempting casserole meals. Serve them bubbling hot with fresh green salads and fruit desserts.



[Canadian Spice Association photo]

THREE is a size and shape to suit every taste among the many pasta products. The tubular macaroni is made short and long, large and small, curved, grooved and fancy-shaped. Spaghetti varies in thickness and length. Noodles may be many widths, ruffled or plain, twisted and folded.

As a base for casserole dishes, the pasta products provide a bland, satisfying foil for savory and spicy sauces.

For four servings, prepare eight ounces of spaghetti, macaroni or noodles. Heat three quarts of water with one tablespoon of salt to a rolling boil in a large kettle. Add the product gradually so that the water continues to boil. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until tender. Do not overcook. To test, cut against the side with a fork. When done, it will cut cleanly and easily. Drain in a colander or sieve. If the cooking water looks milky or starchy, rinse the cooked pasta with warm water, then drain. To keep cooked macaroni from sticking together, toss lightly with butter, salad oil or some of the sauce to be served over it. Macaroni and spaghetti double in bulk during cooking; noodles scarcely swell at all.

If the casserole is to be baked, undercook the pasta slightly.

Spaghetti and Meat Balls

1 lb. ground beef	1 tsp. seasoned salt
½ lb. ground pork	¼ tsp. black pepper
1 egg, slightly beaten	¼ tsp. allspice
1 large onion, grated	¼ tsp. cloves
	¼ c. flour
	½ c. milk

Have beef and pork ground together (grind beef twice, then put through grinder again with pork). Combine meat, egg, onion and seasonings. Add flour, and beat until thoroughly blended and fluffy. Add milk slowly, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating well. Mixture should be like a thick dough. Shape into small meat balls and fry in butter or salad oil until golden brown. Turn often for even browning.

Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Serve meat balls and spaghetti with a packaged spaghetti sauce mix. Yields 6 servings.

Ham and Spaghetti

8-oz. uncooked spaghetti	½ c. diced green pepper
8 c. boiling water	¾ c. shredded "old" cheddar cheese
2 tsp. salt	
3 T. fat	
1 clove garlic, finely chopped	10-oz. can condensed tomato soup
1 c. chopped onion	¼ tsp. pepper
½ c. finely diced celery	¼ tsp. oregano
2½ c. diced ham	1 c. tomato juice

Cook spaghetti uncovered in boiling salted water until tender, 15 to 20 min. Drain, rinse thoroughly with cold water, then drain again.

Melt fat in the frying pan; add garlic, onion, celery and green pepper, and sauté until lightly browned. Add ham and heat for 5 min. Remove from heat and stir in cheese. In a saucepan, combine and heat tomato soup, pepper, oregano and tomato juice.

Arrange spaghetti, ham mixture and sauce in layers in a greased 2 qt. casserole. Repeat layers, then top with spaghetti and sauce. Bake in a moderately hot oven at 375°F. until thor-



[Catelli-Habitant photo]

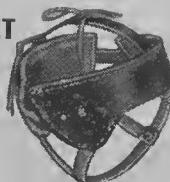
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oughly heated (about 35 min.). Yields 6 servings.

Penny Franks 'n Noodles

½ c. chopped onion	4 oz. medium wide noodles
½ c. chopped celery	(1½ c. to 2 c.)
3 c. blended vegetable juice	½ tsp. salt
6 frankfurters, cut in ¼-in. slices	3 T. butter
	¾ c. shredded process cheese

Cook onion and celery in butter for about 5 min. in a heavy frying pan. Stir in remaining ingredients, except cheese. Cover tightly, and cook over medium heat stirring often, about 20 min. or until noodles are tender. Sprinkle cheese over top and cook until just melted. Yields 4 servings.

Note: After noodles are tender, the mixture may be transferred to an oven-proof casserole. Sprinkle with cheese, then broil until top is lightly browned.

Cheese Tuna Bake

2 c. noodles, cooked	1 c. grains pepper
2½ T. butter	¼ c. diced green pepper
2 T. flour	¼ c. chopped stuffed olives
2 c. milk	7½ oz. can chunk-style tuna
½ tsp. salt	1½ c. bread crumbs or crushed cereal
1 tsp. Worcester-shire sauce	2 c. grated cheddar cheese
2 c. grated cheddar cheese	

Spoon hot, drained noodles into a buttered 2 qt. casserole. Melt butter in saucepan; blend in flour. Add milk and cook, stirring until smooth and thickened. Add salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce and 1½ cups of the cheese. Scatter tuna chunks, green pepper and olives over noodles. Pour cheese sauce over top and sprinkle with bread crumbs or crushed cereal mixed with remaining cheese. Bake in a moderate oven at 375°F. for 40 min., or until

brown and bubbling. Yields 5 to 6 servings.

Chicken Macaroni

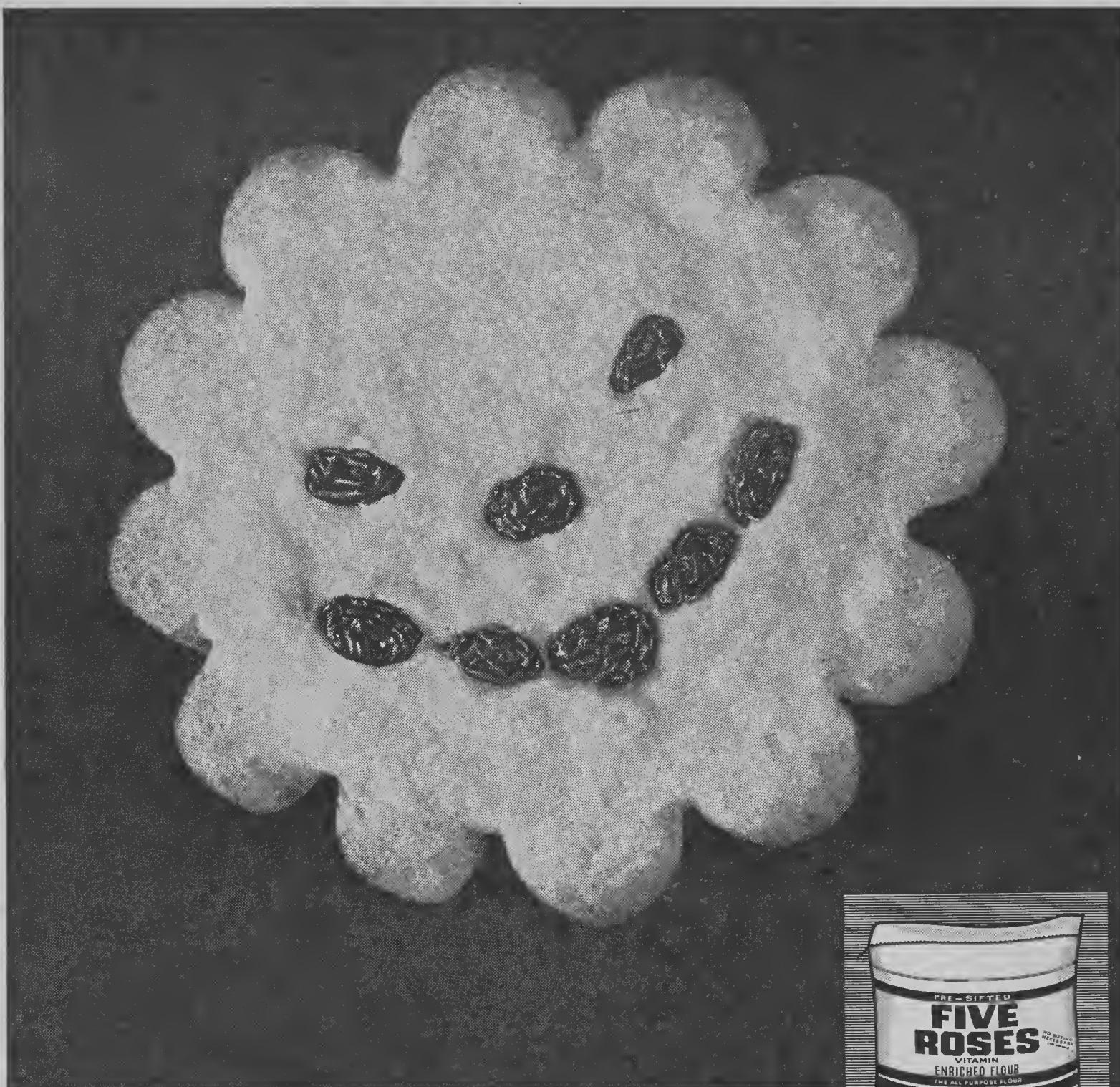
8-oz. elbow macaroni	2 c. medium cream sauce, substituting chicken broth or chicken consomme for milk
3 T. instant minced onion	1 c. cooked cubed chicken
3 cloves	2 T. chopped parsley
3 T. butter	
½ c. cheddar cheese, grated	
Dash of nutmeg	
Freshly ground white pepper	

Cook macaroni in rapidly boiling, salted water with onion and cloves. Cook only until tender; rinse and remove cloves. Drain. Mix remaining ingredients, except parsley, with cream sauce. Heat until the cheese melts, then mix with macaroni. Spoon into serving dish and sprinkle with parsley. Yields 6 servings.

Lamb Tomato Pilaf

1½ lb. lamb shoulder, cubed	1 c. milk
½ c. butter	2 T. chopped parsley
1 medium onion, diced	1 tsp. salt
½ c. diced celery	¼ tsp. garlic juice or garlic salt
20-oz. can tomatoes	½ tsp. oregano
¼ c. flour	¼ c. grated cheddar cheese
2 c. cooked egg noodles, drained	

Coat lamb cubes with flour, then brown in butter. Add onion and celery; cover and simmer 30 min. In another frying pan, combine tomatoes, ¼ cup flour and milk. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in the drained cooked noodles, parsley, salt, garlic and oregano. Combine with lamb pieces and vegetables and pour into a buttered 2 qt. casserole. Top with the grated cheese. Bake 25 to 30 min. at 350°F. Yields 6 servings. V



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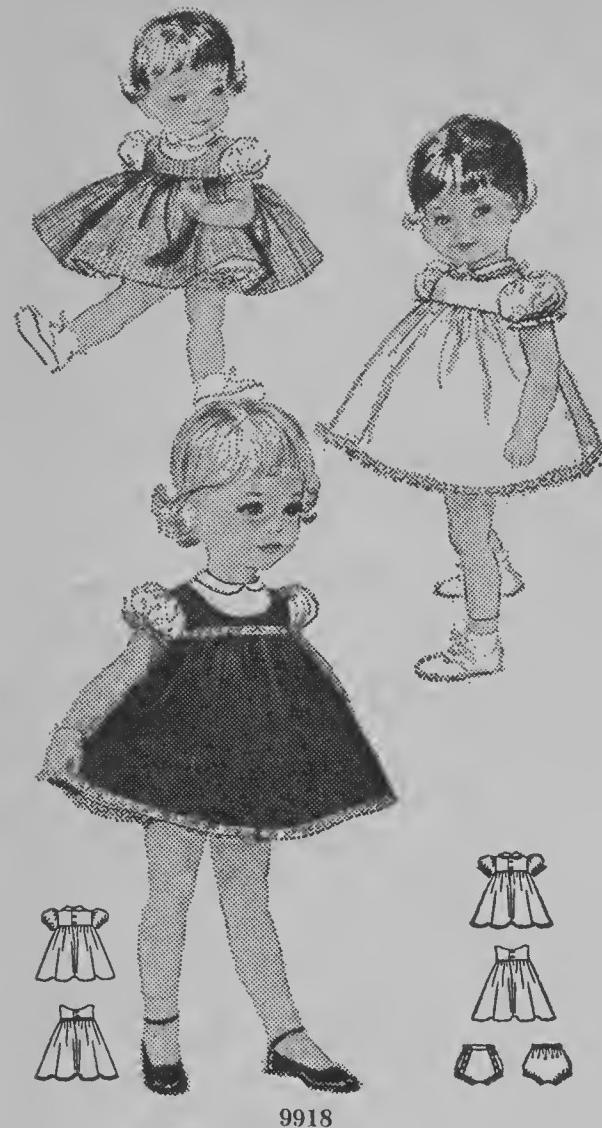
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Business as Usual

by RUTH McDONALD

WELL, it's over for another year. The dismantled Christmas tree now leans drunkenly against the back fence, strung with bits of tinsel and suet chunks for the birds. The big fat candles, an inch shorter, have been wrapped and stored away. Ornaments from the tree, piano and mantel have settled into their storage space. Cards and letters have come down from their festive display and received one last lingering reading, the cards packed away for stormy day cutting. The needles have been vacuumed up, and presents settled into their permanent homes.

Just as the festive things have been tucked away, so the commonplace things have slowly been restored. I have done a washing that would do credit to a steam laundry. Now I'm faced with the mountain of shirts and blouses and household linens waiting to be ironed. The sewing machine hums with the mundane bits of mending which scuttled discreetly from view during the holidays. School books have been dug out and the children are off again on the serious quest for learning, proudly sporting new clothing or jewelry from under the Christmas tree. Stomachs, grown weary of rich holiday fare, rejoice in savory stew and vegetables and gingerbread. Bedtime comes at its normal hour, and the piano that rang with "Deck the Halls" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" now echoes earnestly with scales, chords, arpeggios and the prescribed pieces for the conservatory examinations which loom in February.

OUTWARDLY we are right back where we were in November before the frantic activity, and the pocket-emptying, heart-stretching season of Christmas caught us in its tide. But we're not quite the same, and the differences go deeper than the new possessions or even the small gap in her front teeth proudly born back to school by our youngest.

As a family we're a little bit closer and dearer to one another than we were before, a little richer with the shared traditions of another Christmas. The lovely ghosts that crowded in with letters and cards enriched old friendships and associations. With the passing of another year, the religious implications of Christmas became more meaningful and dear than before: right down to the littlest one, the children thought more of giving and less of getting. So we're back to school and work and meetings, the same, but not quite the same as we were. Tucked in my letterbox is a neat, and somewhat embarrassing list of a number of small things that I overlooked this year: they would have made Christmas a little happier for someone had I remembered them. I shall try to remember them in time next Christmas. That's my first New Year's resolution!

This morning, with the children off to school and the dampened

ironing waiting with its usual patience, I rolled the dust-cover off my typewriter and dug out the half-finished manuscripts that gave way to coffee with friends and games with the family. The keys feel firm and exciting under my fingers.

Once again routine is the order of the day; and what a precious order it is! Just as coming home from a vacation lends new beauty to the ordinary things of house and yard

and community, so the return to normal living after the holiday season brings new appreciation of the humdrum we dropped so gladly when Christmas came. Our journey to high places lent new beauty to the plain, and the break in routine did exactly what a break in routine should do. It proved what a dear and good and useful friend that old bogey really is; and we are ready to step into a new year. V

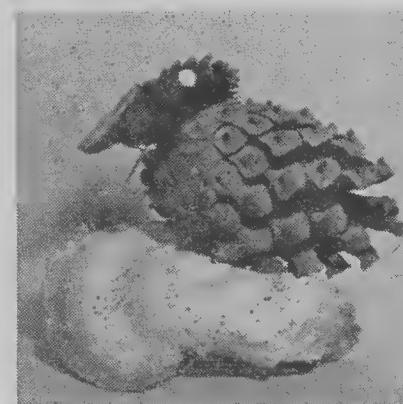


Pine Cone Creatures

by MARY AKSIM

ARE you wondering what to do with the pine cones you collected last summer? Why not make pine cone birds and animals to decorate a shelf or mantel? I remember making pine cone figures around our big kitchen table with my grandfather as teacher. Under his direction we learned to make owls and dogs and many other creatures.

For example, you can make a pine cone turtle. Cut a plump pine cone in half across its length for the shell. Mold the body and head of plasticine or modeling clay. Use beads for eyes



and red paint for the mouth. Or make a baby robin in the same way, using a pine cone, a cedar cone, beads and plasticine. Sit him on a fungus cushion as shown in the illustration.

To make a duck, use a big fat cone. Another cone, which has been stripped, makes its head and beak. It can also sit on a fungus cushion. For a turkey, cut a large cone in half across its width. Next, take the scales from another cone. Tip each one with glue. Then fix each of these firmly on the cut end of the first cone. Give the turkey a head and legs of plasticine or modeling clay.

Our biggest production was a moving snake fashioned from several pine cones threaded on string. We painted it realistically and used it to frighten our city cousins. V

Word Magic

by FLORENCE A. GRITZNER

Can you make magic with words? Of course you can. Try putting the letters of the words in capital letters in different order to turn one thing into another and you will see what we mean.

1. Turn a STONE into music.
2. Turn a SLIVER into a metal.
3. Turn a POST into toys.
4. Turn a LEMON into another fruit.
5. Turn a PANEL into aircraft.
6. Turn a TEAM into food.
7. Turn a CHEATER into an instructor.
8. Turn an ACRE into a contest.
9. Turn a SHORE into an animal.
10. Turn STARCH into maps.
11. Turn LACES into a weighing machine.
12. Turn a REED into an animal.

Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Notes, tones | 7. Teacher | 12. Deer |
| 2. Silver | 8. Race | 11. Scale |
| 3. Tops | 9. Horse | 10. Chart |
| 4. Melon | 5. Plane | 6. Meat |
| 5. Tops | 6. Race | 7. Panel |
| 6. Melon | 7. Panel | 8. Sliver |
| 7. Teacher | 8. Race | 9. Shore |
| 8. Race | 9. Horse | 10. Chart |
| 9. Horse | 10. Chart | 11. Scale |
| 10. Chart | 11. Scale | 12. Deer |

That Kitchen Clock

That kitchen clock hangs on the wall
And ticks out orders to us all—

Breakfast, lunch and dinner, too,
He tells us when and what to do.
"Tick, tock, it's nap time," he'll say
And Mother calls me in from play.
He tells her too, it's getting late—
That I must be in bed by eight.

He tattle-tells all the day—
I wish they'd tuck his tick away.

—LEON RUTSKY.

A Stairway Way

If you leave your
toys on the stairs,
You'll fall on them—
unaware!

—DOROTHY S. ANDERSON.



New Ideas in 4-H

AS 4-H clubs in Canada continue to grow in number and members, 4-H programs and projects extend into new fields. For example, something new came to 4-H this month as clubs across Canada participated in National Farm Radio Forum for the first time. The clubs met January 8 to consider the topic—How Can 4-H Be Improved? They used the familiar farm forum technique: first they examined the 4-H program; then they discussed that program on the basis of the new projects and new ideas necessary to meet changing conditions; finally, they summarized their conclusions for use in planning future programs.

Saskatchewan

Rosthern 4-H Swine Club was the first in Saskatchewan to form a credit union branch. Its purpose: to teach members the importance of systematic saving. Operating as a branch of the Saskatchewan Valley Credit Union, members may make deposits (irrespective of size) at each regular monthly meeting.

In Moose Jaw district the local 4-H Council endorsed the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation and decided to campaign for funds for it within the district. The Foundation was incorporated in 1960 under Saskatchewan law, its objective to solicit and receive gifts of property or other assets and so provide a trust fund for the expansion of the provincial 4-H club program. The council also accepted an invitation from the Moose Jaw Exhibition to provide talent from the clubs for an afternoon show at fair time.

Club members in the Mazenod district bought a 2-storey building and grounds to serve as 4-H headquarters for the community. For an \$800 investment, they now have meeting rooms and a kitchen in an oil-heated building. Donations and pledges were sufficient to buy both building and grounds, both of which will be available to other young people's groups without charge.

Manitoba

New to Manitoba's 4-H program are pony and light horse projects. In addition to the training in organization and citizenship common to all 4-H clubs, these projects offer practical experience in the care, feeding and management of ponies and light horses; training in judging and show-

manship of light horses; safety measures for riders; and the development of greater appreciation for horseback riding as healthy, wholesome recreation. Members exhibit their horses at club achievement days. Scoring and awards are based on record books, care of the animal, achievement day record and participation in club meetings.

Girls in Manitoba's comparatively new 4-H home design clubs have new project books, compiled and written by Onalee Rudd, home design specialist with the provincial

department of agriculture. Members complete one project in each of 3 years. Beginners learn basic home-making practices and how to make good use of color and design. The second year, to help them develop skill in using color and fabric and in furniture arrangement and lighting, they redecorate their bedrooms. In the final year, members study such aspects of home furnishing as floor coverings, lighting, wall and window treatment, furniture and home accessories.

British Columbia

New to British Columbia is a three-stage rural youth development program. Its objectives: to give farm boys opportunities to acquire the resources necessary for a career in farming; to provide training in scientific and technical agriculture; to provide training in economics and management and so encourage sound decision-making; to provide programs that will train local leaders for 4-H and community affairs.

The first stage is for boys and girls between 10 and 14 who will

share in traditional 4-H projects. At 14, members take a comprehensive examination and badges will be awarded to those who reach prescribed standards.

In the second stage, members from 15 to 22 will share in more group activities and have a broader choice of projects from which to choose. For example, a livestock project might involve five or ten beef or dairy heifers, or from five to ten sows. Alternative projects will include such subjects as farm management studies, woodlot projects, marketing studies, district surveys.

The third stage is designed for young farmers and homemakers 18 to 30 years of age. Men will be encouraged to study farm management and develop father-son projects. Women will study home management, including budgeting, record-keeping, child care, needlework. As members become more skilled and independent of outside leadership, study and discussion groups will replace clubs as such. ✓



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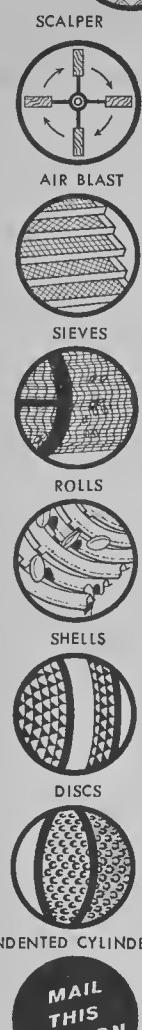
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What Farm Organizations Are Doing

SFU OPPOSES RELAXATION OF FEED MILL REGULATION

The Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, at its 12th annual convention in Saskatoon last month, supported the stand taken by its officers in opposing the relaxation of Wheat Board quota and price regulations, allowing western feed mills to buy feed grains outside these regulations. However, delegates were not prepared to take drastic action. A resolution recommending to SFU directors that arrangements be made to picket feed mills was tabled.

The convention reaffirmed its previous recommendation to the Federal Government to "take the initiative in opening negotiations with the United Kingdom, the western European countries and the United States for the purpose of systematically lowering trade barriers between our countries and for the eventual establishment of an Atlantic Free Trade Area."

Other resolutions concerned with trade asked for long-term credits where necessary to former colonial countries, and for keeping the Japanese market for Canadian grains secure by not imposing restrictions on trade between the two countries.

The SFU urged the Federal and provincial governments to get together in a spirit of co-operation and

apply their combined efforts to devising ways and means of using Canada's tremendous productive potential for the benefit of all.

Delegates also passed resolutions seeking the reimposition of price controls in the Canadian economy; the integration of the CPR and the CNR into one national transportation industry, to be operated as a public utility; and, the Federal government to directly relate costs of production of farm products in the establishment of support prices on basic volumes of a farmer's production. ✓

FUA SUGGESTS NEGOTIATIONS WITH CFA

At its annual convention, the Farmers' Union of Alberta endorsed the principle of a National Farmers' Union and, at the same time, recommended no further action to implement the principle for a period of 1 year, to permit negotiations with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for a single voice for farmers.

Delegates requested that deficiency payments on hogs be made on the basis of \$27 per cwt. for the first 100 hogs at the time and place of sale, such payments to be made on a quarterly and regional basis.

They indicated continuing interest in a hog marketing board and asked the FUA to work for a hog market-



ME-102

ing board plebiscite at a favorable time. They also asked for a veterinary college in Western Canada.

The meeting again urged the Federal Government to establish the Wheat Board on a permanent basis and re-affirmed opposition to grain purchases by feed mills outside CWB price and quota regulations. Delegates also wanted \$4 per bushel for wheat sold on the domestic market for human consumption, basis No. 1 Northern and recommended an initial price high enough to discourage loss or over-quota sales.

The meeting commended the Federal Government (1) for negotiating wheat sales to China and (2) for its policy of bringing the Canadian dollar into better relationship with the U.S. dollar. Delegates also recorded their approval of free trade between Canada and the U.S. (with controls against dumping) as a step toward a universal free trade policy.

They decided to seek an amendment to PFAA to put payments on a more equitable basis and recommended payment on the basis of yield from individual quarter sections, payments to be made on each quarter section for actual loss irrespective of cause. V

MFU CONTINUES DEMAND FOR PARITY

The Manitoba Farmers' Union, at its 11th annual convention in Winnipeg last month, resolved to ask the Federal Government to institute a program of parity prices for all farm commodities consumed in Canada. In support of this request, the delegate body reasoned that other programs, such as acreage payments, subsidies to the railways, etc., had failed to alleviate the cost-price squeeze in agriculture. The Union, coupled with this resolution, passed two others pertaining to the welfare of the farming industry that are sweeping in nature:

First, it called on the Federal Government to make the necessary changes in the Agricultural Stabilization Act to bring price stability and a fair share of the national income to agriculture, as a fulfillment of a 1958 Federal election promise.

Second, it went on record as favoring a return to a complete system of price controls. The price control resolution was passed by a very slim margin.

To relieve the hardships caused by the 1961 drought, the meeting agreed to request that drought payments of \$5 per seeded acre on yields below 12 bu. per acre, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per farm, be paid before seeding in 1962. Delegates also renewed the organization's request for acreage payments to be made in the 1961 calendar year.

Delegates agreed unanimously to co-operate with the Manitoba Pool Elevators in studying ways and means of purchasing or building a co-operative meat packing plant, and to take action to this end if the project proved feasible.

The MFU, among other things, called for the nationalization of the CPR, the Federal Government to place all feed mills under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board, and the Government to continue the butter price support at 64¢. V



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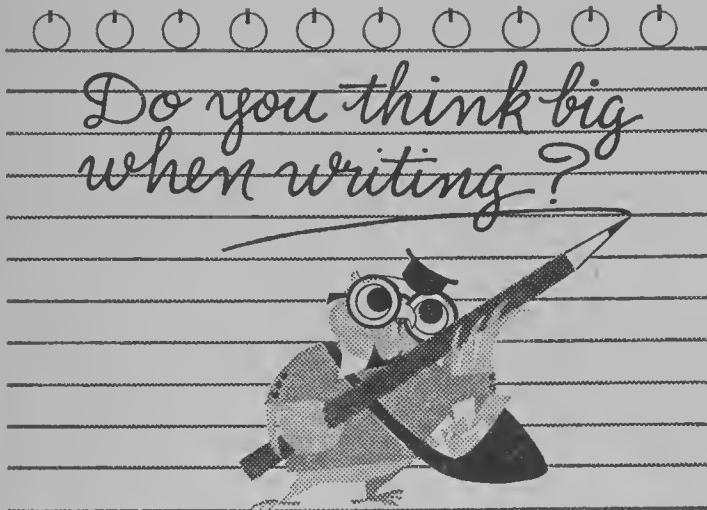
Continued from page 14

CAN PACKERS CALL THE TUNE?

The letter went on to say that the same thing had happened the following week, and continued:

"Hoover promised me today that if Grant tries the same thing next week, he will call me before he settles. However, this will only do good if I can persuade Hoover not to agree and this may be difficult. . . ."

Regarding the payment by Swift's of "extras" over and above Montreal price, on hogs they bought on the Island, correspondence indicates how

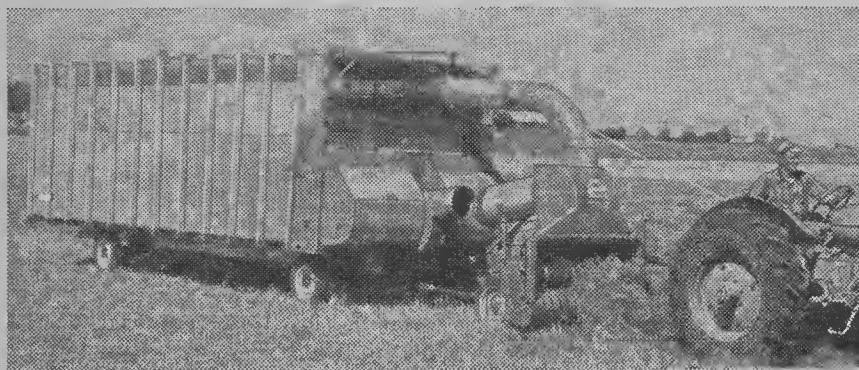


THEN YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE

an amusing conversationalist, witty . . . humorous . . . an occasional genius in art or music, but with all this talent you may be erratic and sometimes forget: ■ Your correspondent's full and correct postal address ■ Your own name and return address in upper left corner ■ AND THE CORRECT POSTAL ZONE NUMBERS IF YOU ARE WRITING TO QUEBEC, MONTREAL, OTTAWA, TORONTO, WINNIPEG, OR VANCOUVER. Help us to speed your mail—check the yellow pages of your Telephone Directory for full postal information.



PO-61 23B



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McKee Harvesters (Eastern) Limited
Box 173, Chateauguay, Que. Oxford 2-9431

McKEE BROS. LIMITED ELMIRA
ONTARIO

Canada Packers proceeded to compete for hogs. The Charlottetown plant manager sent this communication to head office:

" . . . I talked to Hoover about this last Monday, but must say I didn't get very much satisfaction. I finally told him that unless he agreed to discontinue this practice, that we would tell the Maritime Co-op what he is doing over here and not doing for them, and that we would offer them something in the way of extras. . . ."

And a month later, regarding the same situation, another letter from Charlottetown to Toronto describes why the Canada Packers' manager decided to pay "extras" in certain locations, too, in an effort to meet the competition:

" . . . We feel that by taking this action at these two points, it may make Swift's realize that we are not fooling any longer. That we are determined to get our percentage and hope it will force them to retreat. . . ."

In reply, this letter came back from a company official in Toronto:

" . . . But, if you think that Swift's competition on the Island is going to be such that your costs are going to be raised sharply on all your hogs at Charlottetown, then it would look like good strategy to bid up the mainland price. This action would certainly cost Swift's a lot more than it would cost you. . . ."

In its report, the Commission comments on this situation:

"Mr. Hartlen (Charlottetown plant manager for C. P.) continued to call the manager of Swift's Moncton plant in an effort to get him to discontinue the payment of extras for Island hogs."

A letter of March 1, 1957, from the Charlottetown manager, to head office in Toronto said:

" . . . Between our visit and our telephone calls, we have indicated our willingness to not only correct this situation, but to lead the way."

"Were it not for the President's instructions on Provisions operating I would be recommending today that we give Hoover until the middle of next week to call us. If we do not hear from him, then, we would go to Roy Grant and attempt to buy some mainland hogs by offering him a little more money."

"But it would certainly seem wrong to do this in the Maritimes right now, when at the same time we are trying to get the market down everywhere else in Canada. . . ."

This surprising battle between packers, which they tried to resolve through agreement, went on for months. On April 25, 1957, as Canada Packers and Swift's competed through the payment of these "extras," Mr. Hartlen wrote to Toronto:

" . . . Over the years, through our anxiety to make decent profits, we avoided getting into price wars with Swift's even at the cost of some percentage. Finally, of course, they overplayed their hand, and tried to be too aggressive. Consequently, we had to take the necessary action. Now that we are into a fight, I feel we have to back Swift's up where they belong, even though it may be costly. I feel this is the time to re-establish our rightful position. . . ."

And on May 8, with regard to these "extras" that both Swift's and Canada Packers were paying, the Canada Packers' manager wrote to Toronto:

" . . . Consequently, I swallowed my pride this morning and called Ernie [presumably of Swift's]. He agreed with my ideas, and we have decided to take off the whole \$2.00 next week. It went on in one crack, and I think it should come off the same way. . . ."

It would seem to this reporter, that in this case, the price farmers received for their hogs came down, not because of supply and demand forces on the market, but rather, by agreement between employees of the two companies.

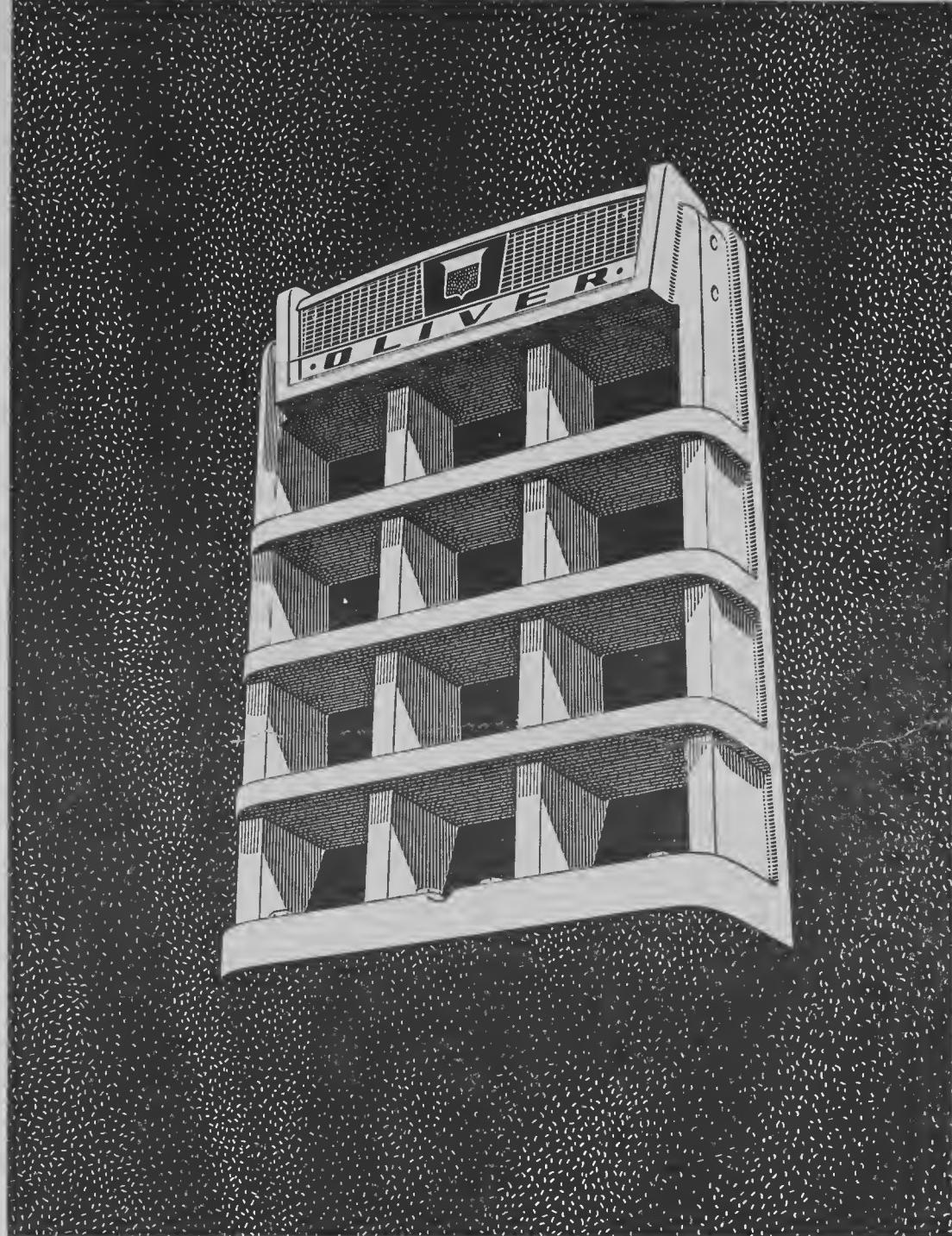
Use the Open Market

It is apparent, from these few excerpts from the report, that there is a great difference in the way a big packer can look at a market, and the way a farmer must look at it. An individual livestock producer is powerless in the face of the swings of the market. If he has cattle or hogs to sell, and the market declines, he may be able to delay selling for a few days (especially cattle) in hopes that the price will rise again. But Canada Packers can plan a strategy designed to hasten or delay that price rise or fall, as suits its purposes. Obviously the price won't always react to its will. But the fact that so much of its time is devoted to planning moves designed with this purpose in mind, would indicate that it must be successful at times.

In effect, Canada Packers can plan its strategy in the market place to influence the prices that are established, and the terms and conditions of marketing. This company often uses the farmers' own livestock — cattle or hogs which it received without having to bid openly for them — to help raise or lower the price that is established in public markets. In effect, Canada Packers plays an active part in creating the rises and falls of market price. An individual farmer, on the other hand, is powerless in the face of these price fluctuations.

This report of the Restrictive Trades Practices Commission indicates what can happen when livestock don't go onto the public market to be sold to the highest bidder. It indicates that a more competitive market will exist for all the farmers' stock, if more livestock are sold on the open market where trained and informed salesmen can represent them, and where buyers have to bid openly and competitively for every head of livestock they get. Selling livestock through the open market may not be the whole answer to producers' marketing problems, but a giant step in the right direction. V

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...and what it means to fuel economy and pulling power

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Why there's no substitute for Oliver's pure, positive pulling power: Chances are you've seen a demonstration of the 6-plow Oliver 1800 or the mighty 8-plow 1900. You may have heard how the 1800 set fuel economy records by plowing 3.38 acres of heavy black soil in 1 hour for 27½ cents* an acre. Or how the 1900 diesel plowed 4 acres in 1 hour for 20 cents* an acre.

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HI FOLKS:

The other day Ted Corbett came up with a plan to end our economic troubles. And I must admit it makes the Marshall Plan and the European Common Market look like pretty small potatoes. It's got all the audacity of a lobby for colored margarine at a national dairy convention.

"What beats us," Ted explained, "is our terrible efficiency. We're just too efficient for our own good. To make our system prosper we need to have a scarcity of everything so we can work like blazes to produce what we're short of. But I ask you, how can we have scarcity when every expert in the country is working to produce faster and faster?"

"If we stopped producing we'd have everybody out of work," I said.

He shook his head sadly. "It's that kind of thinking that got us into this fix in the first place," he said. "The way I see it, we need to do a complete 'about face.' We should encourage the sloppy operator — make him the ideal of all red-blooded Canadian farmers. We could pay a bonus for low yields and reward the fella who can lose the most pigs in every litter, for instance."

"That way, you'd get to be the richest farmer in the district," I pointed out. "You've already got a head start on the rest of us."

"For our manufacturing industries," he went on, "we'd have to plan something a bit more drastic. Most production here is handled by machines, and even poor machines are more efficient than people. To bring our industries into line, I'd introduce what I call 'prostration,' —a combination of production and destruction. With prostration you can produce like mad and still have nothing to show for it."

"Keep talking," I said. "I'll go phone for the wagon."

"The reason we get into trouble," he observed, "is that ordinary minds aren't built for this kind of thinking. I'll try to explain it more simply."

"You see," he said kindly, "it's only a matter of making stuff in one half of a plant and taking most of it apart at the other. You only let enough by to supply the market. That way, we'd have to double the size of every plant and hire twice as many people. But we'd never build up a surplus. More important still, we wouldn't be wasting our natural resources. The same stuff could be used again."

"Seems to me that would up production costs a trifle," I said.

"They could double the price of everything," he countered.

"People would have to work longer hours to pay for it," I said.

"All the better," he said, "it would keep them out of mischief. I figure my plan is just about foolproof!"

He could be right, but I can't help feeling there must be a flaw in it.

Sincerely,
PETE WILLIAMS.

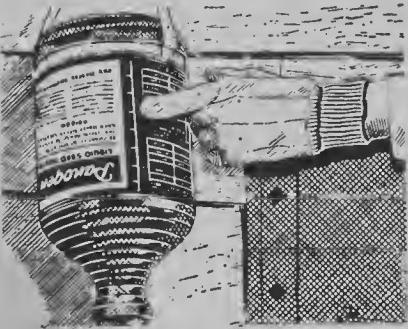


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